

Quayle makes new U.N. demand

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle asked the U.N. secretary general Monday to help occupy a 14-year-old resolution equating Zionism with racism. Quayle, in his first official visit to the United Nations, told reporters the United States would be working on a substantive resolution to replace the one passed by the General Assembly in 1975 that equated Zionism with racism. A spokesman for Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said this was a matter for the General Assembly, not for the secretary general to decide. "No resolution has ever been rescinded or repealed by the General Assembly to my knowledge," spokesman Francois Ghali said. Quayle also gave the secretary general a cheque for \$45 million toward the U.S. contribution to the United Nations, which leaves a debt of over half a billion dollars. The United States owes \$365 million in dues for this year and past years and \$152.7 million for peacekeeping.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأية

Indian kidnap release agreed

JAMMU, India (AP) — Muslim separatists who kidnapped a cabinet minister's daughter said Monday they would free her, apparently after agreement was reached to release some of their jailed colleagues, a government negotiator said. Rukhsana Khatun, the youngest daughter of Home Minister Muzaffar Hussain, will be released "any moment," said Muzaffar Khatun, the chief secretary in the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir. Rukhsana made her announcement shortly after the Monday evening deadline set by the militants of the Kashmir Liberation Front to kill the woman unless the government released seven jailed colleagues, including the group's top leader who was arrested last month. Khatun, 22, was kidnapped at gunpoint Friday in the city of Srinagar as she was going home from work. The abduction was the first major crisis to face the 10-day-old government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

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Press makes triumphant return

By Naima Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's "fourth estate" Monday regained its freedom with a government move to reverse a decision taken in August last year to assume administrative and editorial control of the Kingdom's three major newspaper establishments.

An official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Economic Security Committee (ESC) decided to reverse its Aug. 24, 1988, takeover of the Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes the Arabic-daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, the Jordan Press, Publishing and Distribution Company (Al-Dustur), and the Dar Al Shaab Press, Publishing and Distribution (Sawt Al Shaab). The statement said the management of the three establishments were being returned to the original boards of directors from whom it was taken.

Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times celebrated the return of their original board of directors by

slaughtering a lamb at the door of the Jordan Press Foundation and a traditional "gun salute" in a grand welcome to Al Ra'i editor-in-chief Mahmoud Al Kayed and other members of the board.

Returning to his office 15 months and 16 days after seeing it being claimed by a government-nominated journalist at less than an hour-notice, Kayed, a veteran two-time former president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), expressed his satisfaction with the government's decision to reinstate him in his position.

"This is a new step on the road of democracy which the government has adopted lately through the holding of clean elections and the returning of confiscated passports to their holders," Kayed told the Jordan Times minutes after the decision was officially announced.

Kayed added that a special tribute has to be paid to His Majesty King Hussein in light of his directives which led Jordan into this new era of democracy. "His Majesty's directives insure the security of the liberalisation

of the press and the uplifting of all the unfair procedures which befell it," Kayed said.

Within an hour of the decision, reporters and editors who were dismissed from their jobs during the reign of the government appointed supervisory committee were back at their desks at Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times. Al Ra'i's columnist Bader Abdul Haq and Fakhri Kawa and Jordan Times staff reporter Lamis Andoni received congratulations from their co-workers at the foundation as they made a triumphant return to reclaim their seats and corners in the newsrooms.

Monday's government statement said that the new arrangement was limited for a period of one month during which "special arrangements will be taken to elect new boards of directors" for the three establishments. The new board of directors will be entrusted with the task of "assuming their responsibilities and develop the role of the press in light of the new openness towards the freedom of the press," it added. Following the

government take-over state-owned institutions had also acquired majority shares — controlling interests — of the three papers.

Kayed said that the original owners would endeavour to buy shares in the foundation limiting the government's percentage to "below 50 per cent."

He said the Jordan Press Foundation would adopt "a national policy which will defend the grievances of the citizens and will avoid all the mistakes which took place this past year, opening its pages to all opinions and returning its relationships with all the public sectors and the unionists."

Columnist Kawa, who was elected to the Lower House of Parliament in the Nov. 8 elections, praised the decision of the government and said that it was the natural course to be adopted in light of the new democratic era in the Kingdom.

The Jordan Press Foundation's board of directors include: Mahmoud Al Kayed as chairman and editor of Al Ra'i, Mohammad Al Amad as director-gener-

al, Raja Al Elissa, Ali Abu Al Ragheb, Ramzi Munasher, Khalil Al Salem, Saleh Al Rifai, Hassan Hammam and Radwan Hajjar.

Dar Al Shaab Press, Publication and Distribution retains its editor in chief, Sultan Hattab, but voted in a new chairman of the board of directors and general manager, Abdul Hai Al Majali.

Al-Dustour Press Publication and Distribution opened its doors to its original editor-in-chief Mahmoud Al Sharif and reinstated its elected board of directors.

Monday's government decision appeared to have taken some observers by surprise who had expected a slow process of reinstatement of the original management of the newspapers. However, most analysts saw it as another series in the chain of events and the democratisation process launched in the Kingdom with the Nov. 8 elections, which were hailed as the most free and honest elections in the Arab World.

Monday's decision followed closely on the heels of another major development; the govern-



Mahmoud Al Kayed

ment of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who took office Dec. 6, announced in Parliament Sunday that all confiscated passports of Jordanian citizens would be returned without discrimination and all bans on travel and employment on such people would also be lifted. The prime minister also disclosed that his government was studying the negative and positive aspects of martial law before deciding to rescind it.

N. Yemeni president arrives here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Tuesday begins a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the announced unification plan between North and South Yemen and issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Jordan and North Yemen are two of the four founding members of the ACC, which was established last February along with Iraq and Egypt. The council has expressed its willingness to allow all Arab states to join the basically economic union.

Officials at the North Yemeni embassy said that Jordanian-North Yemeni relations as well as matters related to the ACC are also expected to be discussed with King Hussein and President Saleh.

North Yemen and South Yemen are expected to tour Arab states to brief Arab governments on the reunification plan, Sanaa Radio said Monday.

The radio report said that South Yemeni Minister for Union Affairs Rashid Mohammad Thabit and his North Yemeni counterpart Yahya Hussein Al Arashi would make this tour together.

Thabit was quoted by Reuters as saying that the team would brief officials in Iraq, Egypt and Jordan about the progress on unification talks and future Arab-Yemeni relations.

The two Yemeni states signed a draft constitution for unity Nov. 30, and submitted it to their respective legislative bodies for ratification within the next six months.

Crown Prince heads for talks in France, U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left for France and the United States Monday to confer with their leaders on prospects for peace in the Middle East and the latest developments in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra said the Crown Prince would also give U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar a letter from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with "Middle East developments and international efforts to activate the regional peace process."

Petra said the Crown Prince would stop first in France for talks with President Francois Mitterrand, then would go on to the United States for a meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

The Crown Prince's tour follows last week's visit to the region by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State John Kelly and Saturday's brief stop by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is trying to arrange a meeting in Cairo between Israel and a Palestinian delegation to discuss proposed Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mubarak's talks here deal with the American effort. Kelly briefed the King on the outcome of the Dec. 2-4 super-summit in Malta.

Prince Hassan was seen off by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and senior officials as well as the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and the French charge d'affaires in Amman. Prince Hassan is accompanied on the visit by King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

On his way back, Prince Hassan will pay a brief working visit to Britain.

Arrival in Paris

Petra reported later Monday that the Crown Prince arrived in Paris. It added that he was carrying a message from King Hussein to President Mitterrand.

The Crown Prince visited the U.S. earlier this year for talks with the president, Secretary of State Baker, other administration officials and congressmen on efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as on Jordanian-American relations. He also held talks with officials of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and briefed on them measures adopted by Jordan to redress its financial and economic problems and the impact on such measures on the Kingdom's economy.

Israelis seize 11 at W. Bank funeral

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police Monday fired teargas at mourners of a teenage Palestinian said to have died from a beating, and arrested 11 youths leaving a cemetery after his funeral.

Palestinians said Yousef Muneer, 17, who died in hospital Sunday, was beaten by Israeli forces Nov. 14.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said police fired teargas to disperse mourners massed near the Greek Orthodox cemetery before the funeral on the edge of Jerusalem's Old City.

Police did not interfere with the ceremony. But the witnesses said they formed lines around mourners filing out of the cemetery and seized 11 youths suspected of staging a nationalist demonstration during the funeral.

There were angry exchanges as police grabbed sons away from mothers and lined them up against a wall. The youths, including a boy who other Palestinians said was 11 years old, were

taken away in two trucks, the witnesses added.

In Arab Jerusalem a partial strike was declared to protest against the death of Muneer. Authorities closed Sawhira school after student protests.

Shopkeepers went on strike in the occupied Gaza Strip to protest at the fatal shooting in Gaza City on Sunday of Naim Said Nofal, 17, by an Israeli petrol tanker guard.

Palestinians said nine Arab residents were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip Monday. Eighteen were wounded in similar incidents Sunday.

Israeli troops overnight demolished three buildings housing 41 people in a Gaza Strip refugee camp. The army said they were home to Palestinians suspected of belonging to committees directing the uprising.

In all 631 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis during the revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Two blindfolded and bound Palestinians await transfer following their arrest in Nabulus. (below) Israeli soldiers tell photographers not to take photographs as they guard Palestinians arrested in Ramallah.



Israel threatens tripartite talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel warned Monday it might not attend talks with the foreign ministers of the United States and Egypt to prepare for the first formal Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In an interview Foreign Minister Moshe Arens backed away from Israel's acceptance of the Washington meeting next month, telling army radio he wanted assurances the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would not be involved.

"The main problem I see is Egypt's stance. If it is clear that Egypt has no independent stance here that Egypt simply represents the PLO, I would say that given the course we've embarked on now, we would not come," Arens said.

Yet at a closed parliamentary committee meeting later in the day, Arens appeared to have

broken his own rule. Participants said he told the committee he asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker about the PLO's response to the proposed talks.

In the past Israeli leaders have said they did not care what the PLO had to say. Arens said Baker told him Egypt did not tell Washington how the PLO had replied.

In the radio interview, Arens said no date had been set for the meeting which Israel agreed last week to attend. Earlier reports said the meeting would take place in January.

Cabinet secretary Eliyakim Rubinstein said he would go to Washington this week to prepare for Arens' visit but many details of the process still remained vague.

(Continued on page 3)

Czechs tear down 'iron curtain' as reforms spread in East bloc

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia tore down a stretch of its "iron curtain" with the West Monday in symbolic recognition of the changes raging across Communist East Europe.

As the first eight-kilometre stretch of the frontier with Austria fell to machine shovels and wire cutters, the new government began its first day of work in Prague.

Church bells rang and factory sirens sounded to mark the country's first administration since 1948 not dominated by Communism.

The most immediate task facing the fledgling leadership is to nominate a head of state to replace Communist President Gustav Husak, who resigned immediately after swearing in the government Sunday.

In a further indication of the seemingly relentless spread of reform in East Europe, the Bulgarian Communist authorities lifted a ban on the popular dissident group Eco-Glasnost, whose members were beaten and detained only a few weeks ago.

In Yugoslavia Croatia became the second of the six republics in the Balkan federation to call for free multi-party elections. It now finds itself pitted squarely on the side of Slovenia against the largest republic, Serbia.

Reformers kept up pressure for even faster change. Thousands were to march through the East Germany city of Leipzig, cradle of the protest movement that has brought the country's orthodox Communist Party to its knees in just two months.

In Bulgaria more than 5,000 people staged a candlelit vigil as the Communist leadership was gathering to discuss ways of putting the economy and putting more food in the shops.

The one-hour vigil followed a rally by tens of thousands on Sunday in the largest public show of scepticism about new Communist leader Petar Mladenov's commitment to reform since he took over from the discredited Todor Zhivkov last month.

The crisis in East Germany brought together ambassadors of the four World War II allies for the first time since 1971 to discuss the future of Berlin.

A statement said the Soviet Union expressed favourable interest in Western ideas for opening up the city's air space as a first move to allowing Berlin to develop into an international crossroads.

But Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev again stamped on suggestions of German reunification. The official East German ADN news agency said he hailed East Germany's determination to remain a sovereign state and agreed to meet its new liberal Communist leader Gregor Gysi soon.

"The Soviet Communist Party leadership is watching the further development of relations with East Germany with extraordinary attention and will use its possibilities to support it," ADN quoted Gorbachev as telling Gysi in a telephone call.

"The stability of the European continent depends to a not inconsiderable degree on the stability of East Germany," it quoted him further as saying.

"The Soviet politician stressed the importance... of rejecting all attempts to undermine the sovereignty of the country," it added.

On Sunday, Gorbachev pledged the Soviet Union would not allow any harm to come to East Germany and warned the West against taking advantage of the current political turmoil.

West Germany's opposition Social Democrats were the latest to unveil a programme for German unity.

The proposal has similarities with a 10-point unity programme launched by Chancellor Helmut Kohl last month which foresees increasing cooperation that could lead to an East-West German federation in a united Europe.

But Social Democratic (SPD) leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said his plan differed from Kohl's in that it favoured a confederation in which both states continued to exist but conceded some sovereignty to a new supra-national body.

Film recreates emotions of Palestinian intifada

By Issam Hamza
Reuters

MAALOUA, Syria — An Egyptian director using live bullets and stones has recreated on film the agony and emotions of the two-year Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The three-hour epic "Al Intifada" — "The Uprising" — took 16 months to film. It records the struggle through the life of a Palestinian family in the occupied territories.

Egyptian producer and director Ahmad al-Khatib told Reuters: "I wanted to turn my camera into a stone which will hit Israel from outside the occupied territories. I wanted to show the world facts on Israel's repressive actions

against Arabs."

One part-time Syrian actor was killed when an armoured vehicle overturned in a battle scene. Sixteen people were injured in the accident and seven other performers were hurt during the filming.

The dead man was named a "martyr of the intifada" and his family said they planned no action against the director — a sentiment echoed by the families of other people injured during the filming.

One of those hurt was the female lead — the director's sister Majeda al-Khatib — who suffered a strained back and was sent to hospital after she was dragged from her bed by actors dressed in Israeli army uniforms.

The film drew actors and actresses from throughout the

Arab World and will have its premiere at the New York Film Festival in February.

"We chose New York because it is the 'stronghold of Zionism'," Khatib said in reference to the city's large pro-Israeli Jewish population.

An army of 10,000 extras, including Palestine Liberation Organisation guerrillas, helped Khatib recreate the chaos of the intifada.

"We did not import the stone-throwing children. Those who threw stones in the film were the sons of martyred Palestinians," Khatib said, referring to the children of Arabs killed in successive wars with the Jewish state.

Apart from the 16 people injured in the vehicle accident, most of the others were hurt by stones and fists in chaotic

scenes portraying fighting between Israeli troops and Arabs.

Experts from the Syrian army and Palestinian guerrilla groups helped Khatib stage other clashes with live ammunition, the fighters using their first-hand knowledge to make the scenes more realistic.

The director picked the ancient Syrian town of Maaloula for the film because of its mountains and physical resemblance to the Palestinian villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, scenes of frequent clashes between Israeli troops and stone-throwing Arab demonstrators.

Israeli troops or civilians have killed 590 Palestinians since the uprising began two years ago. Arabs have killed 150 Palestinians alleged to have helped the Jewish state during

the same period.

The film is the first long Arab narrative about the Palestinian problem in the 40-year history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The cream of the Arab cinema from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Lebanon, Kuwait and Syria cancelled all commitments to contribute to the film designed to rally world support for the Palestinian cause.

The Arabic-speaking film will be dubbed into English, French, Dutch and Japanese. Khatib says the film tries to give an honest portrayal of what is happening in the territories.

Egyptian actress Amina Rizq said it gave her an opportunity to help the uprising. "I cannot carry a sub-

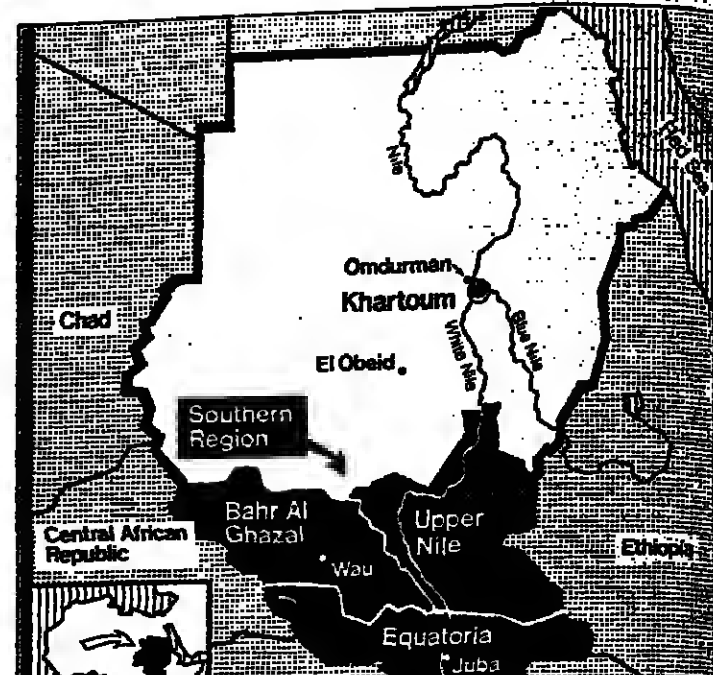
machinegun or a rifle but this film gave me an opportunity to make a small contribution," she said.

"We merely presented what is happening in the occupied territories with no bias. We did not scorn the Israelis as did some Arab movies. We presented events in an objective way," Khatib said.

Actor Youssef Shaaban of Egypt said he had been shocked by Israeli tactics against young Arab protesters.

"I felt this film was a duty to support those little children who are confronting the Israelis with their bare chests."

"We want to rally the world opinion which is now fully on the side of Israel. We hope that this film would serve our just cause."



3 Sudanese towns running out of food

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government has said that three towns — including Juba, the biggest in the south — are about to run out of food.

Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, a member of the ruling military junta, told the army newspaper *Guwat Al Mussallam* that food supplies in the towns of Juba, Wau and Malakal would not last long and severe shortages would be evident in the next few days.

More than 300,000 people live in and around Juba whose land links have been cut for more than one year through fighting between government troops and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

A flare-up in the six-year-old civil war has halted an airlift of relief supplies to the war-devastated, impoverished region.

Military ruler General Omar Hassan Al Bashir was quoted by Sunday newspapers as saying the army had driven the SPLA from the town of Kaka in the Upper Nile region, about 600 kilometres south of Khartoum.

Bashir said the army was scoring victory after victory in the south.

Diplomats said the junta appeared to have given up — at least for the time being — hope of a peaceful resolution of the war.

Kassiano, blaming the SPLA for disruption to relief supplies to the south, said the government was committed to continuing Operation Lifeline.

The aid operation delivered 107,000 tonnes of relief to the south from May to October this year while each side announced a series of unilateral ceasefires.

The government suspended the operation last month, saying it would resume after investigations into a bombing raid on the SPLA-held town of Yrol.

At peace talks between the government and the SPLA in Nairobi last week, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced that the two sides had agreed to the immediate resumption of relief flights.

Carter chaired the talks which collapsed on the issue of Sharia Law, at the heart of the war between the largely Christian and animist south against what it sees as domination by the Muslim north.

After the peace talks collapsed, the SPLA accused Sudan of bombing the southern town of Wau last Tuesday and choosing war.

Diplomatic sources said the raid suggested the food airlift agreed at the peace talks would not resume as soon as thought.

Last year the conflict, combined with drought and disease, killed 250,000 people mainly in the south and displaced 3.5 million.

The SPLA wants Sudan ruled along secular lines and opposes plans by the junta, which came to

power in a June coup, to turn the country into a federation. Junta member Col. Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, who led the government delegation to the Nairobi talks, said Saturday the government would implement Sharia Laws and turn a deaf ear to those opposing them. In a separate development, a military tribunal Sunday sentenced a doctor to death by hanging, and another to a 15-year prison term for leading a one-week strike by physicians. The tribunal said it based its decision on the country's emergency law and not on Sudan's penal code. Under regulations in force since the present military junta took power last June, strikes are illegal and punishable by death. The special military tribunal set up by the junta, held five sessions before condemning Mahmoud Mohammed Hussein to death and Sayed Mohammed Abdallah to 15 years in jail. It turned down an appeal by Hussein who said that in his capacity as a member of the recently dissolved physician's union, he had been asked to preside over the doctors' meeting that decided the strike. Abdallah was a member of the Socialist Sudanese Bashir Party that, along with all political groups and unions, was dissolved by the military junta shortly after it overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. Claiming insufficient evidence, the tribunal acquitted two other doctors, Abgog Gordon and Jaafar Mohammad Saleh, of the charges facing the four defendants: instigation of sedition, war against the state, and illegal gathering. Gordon is from southern Sudan, and Saleh a member of the disbanded Communist Party. The four physicians appeared before the military court a little over a week after the start of the doctors' strike which began on Nov. 26. It was in protest over the detention of colleagues in military jails and the dismissal of physicians from government posts. Bashir had blamed the protests on leftist elements. Sunday's death sentence is the third passed this month. On Dec. 2, military courts sentenced two Sudanese men, Magdi Mahgoub Mohammed Ahmad and Ali Bashir Marjoud to death for dealing in the black market for foreign currency. Although all death sentences have to be ratified or confirmed by Bashir, the junta leader made clear Sunday he would not oppose the court's decision. The rulings of these courts shall not be appealed, including the death sentences, he told a crowd in Kassala, in eastern Sudan.

Nazareth march highlights ties with Palestinians under occupation

NAZARETH (R) — A peaceful march through Nazareth by Israeli Arabs supporting the Palestinian uprising vividly demonstrated the ties that bind them to their brethren under occupation and the hopes and truths that divide them.

Police watched from rooftops but never intervened. The march by 7,000 people was legal and peaceful, with not a soldier or a teargas canister in action.

Such a march in the occupied territories would be illegal. As the demonstration marking the second anniversary of the revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip ended Saturday afternoon, participants streamed away past open stores, stopping to eat at pastry or falafel shops.

In the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, 25 kilometres to the south, the streets were silent, emptied by a general strike of Palestinian shop owners marking the anniversary and the stepped-

up presence of Israeli troops.

The uprising may have reawakened Palestinian nationalism among Israel's Arabs — and strengthened Jewish suspicions of their fellow citizens — but the hardships of the struggle have fallen mainly on the 1.75 million Arabs in the occupied areas.

Inside those territories shops close everyday by noon on orders of underground Palestinian leaders, and full strike days are frequent.

Arab schools have been shut for much of the two years, standards of living have fallen and tens of thousands have suffered arrest, injury or death.

"There is no peace in the streets, there is no peace in your home, no peace anywhere," said the owner of a Jenin pharmacy, one of the few shops kept open during strikes.

But for all the sympathy Israeli Arabs feel for Palestinians in the occupied territories, they do not share their goals.

Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza want to replace Israeli occupation with an independent Palestinian state, those inside Israel are fighting for equal treatment as Israeli citizens.

"The Palestinians in the occupied areas don't have anything to lose. But those here do," said Safwan Fahum, a local government official in Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab town.

The limits of their support for the uprising were shown during the Nazareth demonstration, when organisers such as Fahum removed hanged Palestinian flags from marchers to avoid provoking the police.

The 650,000 Israeli Arabs, 16 per cent of the Jewish state's population, suffer subtle discrimination in areas ranging from expropriation of land to the quality of education.

Recent polls showing support growing among Jews for "transfer" — the euphemism for mass deportation of the Arab popula-

tion to another country — frightened Israeli Arabs.

"It's not losing the house or the car, it's more than that," Fahum said of the pressures on Israeli Arabs. "We are afraid to be expelled to the Arab countries, that is the main fear."

The Arabs remaining in Israel decided to stay when others fled after 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Forty-one years later, they see a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the right of those who left but the ties to their own land have not weakened.

"We do not look for a Palestinian country here — we look for a country in the West Bank," Maher Abu Ahmad, a 20-year-old native of Nazareth, said during the demonstration.

But when asked if he would move to such a state, he made clear that he sees his future as an Israeli Arab. "My job is here, my work is here. It's my land."

Wave of unrest hits Tunisian universities

TUNIS (R) — A wave of unrest by Muslim militant students has hit Tunisian universities and secondary schools at the same time as the Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement, the main Islamic group, is making a new bid for recognition as a party.

Students have been boycotting classes, out on the streets in illegal demonstrations and airing grievances such as poor food and housing for several weeks.

The agitation went one step further last week when 96 students at Tunis's Zaitouna University began a hunger strike in protest at plans to move them to new premises. On Monday 75 of them were in their eighth day on a diet of sugared water.

The Islamic-led Tunisian General Union of Students, the largest of two student organisa-

tions, Monday called a one-day general strike at all Tunisian universities for Thursday in solidarity with the hunger strikers.

Nahdha Movement leader Hamadi Jebali told Reuters Monday the unrest stemmed from genuine student grievances against the policies of Education Minister Mohammad Sharfi, a liberal secularist who once headed Tunisia's human rights league.

"It has nothing to do with our campaign for legal recognition or our own criticisms of Sharfi," he added.

Jebali said the Nahdha was going to make a formal application for legal status to the Interior Ministry. A first application was turned down in June.

But government officials and the official press are accusing the

Nahdha of stirring up the students to put pressure on the government when it decides on the application.

"It's straightforward blackmail. In effect, they are saying 'recognise us as a party and we'll guarantee you calm on the campuses,'" an official told Reuters Monday.

"These people always speak with forked tongues. On the one hand they allow their members to do what they want, then they tell us this is the work of other groups," he added.

The leadership of the Nahdha Movement denied organising a demonstration in central Tunis last Thursday, for example, but students said Nahdha members were behind it.

The demonstration by several hundred youngsters was nominal-

ly in support of the Palestinian intifada but the government newspaper *La Presse* said this was merely a pretext.

"If they were trying to intimidate or to put on pressure, for reasons which the organisers are well aware, then they have yet again gone the wrong way about it," an editorial said.

The government has linked the Nahdha with the student unrest by referring to an October statement in which Nahdha Secretary General Sheikh Abdul Fattah Mourou called for Sharfi to go.

Mourou had accused Sharfi of seeking to Westernise and secularise the syllabus for religious education in secondary schools. Sharfi was "turning his back on the Arab and Muslim identity of the Tunisian people," the statement said.

South Yemen-U.S. talks positive — Attas

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — President Haidar Al Attas of South Yemen, a close ally of the Soviet Union, has said that talks on resuming relations with the United States "will yield good fruit," the Al Itihad daily has reported.

Relations were severed by Aden two years after it gained independence from Britain in 1967, when it became Marxist and developed close political and military ties with Moscow.

"A dialogue is currently being conducted in Washington between representatives of both countries regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations," Attas told Al Itihad in an interview.

"The talks are positive... this will definitely yield good fruit for bilateral cooperation," he added.

Kuwait has been mediating between Aden and Washington, especially as South Yemen has been opening up to develop relations with its Arab neighbours and the West amid superpower detente.

Other Arab governments have also been possibly involved.

Washington has yet to confirm the process, so far saying only that meetings between U.S. and South Yemeni representatives did take place in October at the United Nations.

The focus was on U.S. concern about Aden's relations with its neighbours and its alleged con-

nections with "terrorism". Aden has emphatically denied any terrorist links.

There have been unconfirmed reports that South Yemen has terminated the presence of hundreds of Cuban military experts.

The East Germans also have experts in South Yemen to bolster the large Soviet military presence.

Aden's perestroika, as it is now widely dubbed, was bolstered recently by a visit by Britain's Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, William Waldegrave.

He was the first West European minister to South Yemen for 22 years. Waldegrave also visited North Yemen and Oman.

Captain to appear in court over crash

CAIRO (R) — A Filipino sea captain will appear in court Tuesday to face charges after his ship hit an Egyptian oil platform in the Gulf of Suez, an Egyptian newspaper said Monday. The platform was badly damaged when the ship hit it Friday and production of 6,000 barrels a day has been halted. The embassy official said Captain Vicente Mejia Abanew would appear in court in the Red Sea town of Hurgada.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children's programmes
16:00	News summary in Arabic
16:05	Local programme
16:15	Programme review
16:25	Programme review
16:30	News in Arabic
16:35	Arabic series
16:40	Programme review
16:45	Local programme
16:50	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:55	La Chasse
17:00	News in French
17:05	Anjournd 'Hni En Jordanie
17:10	News in Hebrew
17:15	News in Arabic
17:20	Different world
17:25	Poems
17:30	News in English
17:35	Hunter
PRAYER TIMES	
06:59	Fajr
07:21	(Sunrise) Duha
12:30	Dhuhr
14:34	'Asr
16:37	Maghreb
18:00	'Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel Tel. 810740.	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teravante Church Tel. 622360	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will become cold and rainy and winds will be southerly fresh. In Amman, it will be dusty with southerly fresh wind and calm sea.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani 898552	
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436	
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 622520	
Dr. Anwar Al Agrabawi 642676	
Fines pharmacy 661912	
Ferdows pharmacy 773336	
Al Asama pharmacy 637055	
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shmoukhi pharmacy 637660	
JERUSALEM:	
Dr. Ali Al Shamsi (—)	
Al Shamsi pharmacy (965236)	
JERUSALEM	
Min./max. temp. 5/14	
Amman 19, Amman 24. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Amman 35 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Police 630541	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 775121	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hospital Complaints 608801	
Police Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897457	
Complaints 787111	
Complaints 787111	
Complaints 121	
Overseas Calls 010230	
Central Amman Telephone 623101	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661011	
Jordan Television 771111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680100	

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 536381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 818133/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Badri Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shmoukhi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645943
Al-Musader Hospital 662219
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Izzat, Al-Muhajreen 771013/3
Al-Badri, J. Ashrafieh 775112/5
Army, Marja 871017/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602403/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
The Star Hospital (09)983732
DIBDI:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722725
St. Al-Nadim Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Doha (RJ)
09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
15:45	Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)

Intelligence clearance eliminated

Return of passports started

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Departments of Passports and Civil Registration have mobilised forces to return confiscated passports and started receiving applications from the concerned citizens from Monday, informed official sources said Monday.

According to the sources, about 200 applications were already received by the Passport Department Monday.

The sources said the concerned citizens should call at the respective Passport Department between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and file applications, whether for the return of seized passports or for renewals which were turned down earlier. The regular procedures of applications would apply in all cases except that no clearance is required for Jordanians resident in the Kingdom, the sources added.

But, Jordanian living outside the country have to go through the clearance procedures for renewing or acquiring new passports, according to the sources who pointed out that there was a law stipulating so.

The total number of passports actually "seized" is less than 500, while those which were refused renewal since 1987 are 2,300, the source said and dismissed an Israel Radio claim Monday that

the total number of "seized" passports was over 9,000.

The return of passports comes in line with a directive issued by His Majesty King Hussein and announced in Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday. The prime minister, who took office on Dec. 6, also announced that has imposed on employment and travel on people were also to be lifted.

Ministry to promote tourism in Tafileh

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquity has established a bureau for reactivating tourism in the Tafileh Governorate by demonstrating archaeological sites in the region, director of the bureau in Tafileh, Khalid Wuhush said Monday.

The bureau, in cooperation with government and public institutions in the governorate, will reactivate tourism and cultural trips, to acquaint the public with archaeological and historical sites, issues bulletins, hold seminars, and ensure that archaeological sites are properly maintained, Wuhush added in a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said the governorate is characterised with its numerous

historical and archaeological sites, such as the castles of Iwannah, Nussaniyah, Karak, Afra, and Tafileh.

The governorate has a number of monuments including those for Al Harith Ibn Amir Al Azadi, Qarwah Ibn Amir Al Nafer Al Jadhani, and others the director said.

Furthermore, there are the spas of Al Birsayyah and Afra where mineral water, with temperatures reaching 49 degrees Centigrade, are used for the treatment of various diseases, Wuhush said.

He added that a number of swimming pools in the governorate have undergone repairs to promote tourism.

Amman, Tunis discuss bilateral relations

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Defence Minister Abdullah Al Qasbi Monday discussed with Director of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre Brigadier Uqla Dohmatat bilateral relations concerning drawing and exchange of maps, rehabilitation of technical cadres, and exchange of scientific expertise.

The Tunisian official stressed the need to follow up the implementation of the cooperation agreement signed between Jordan and Tunisia in 1987.

The agreement defines spheres

of coordination between Jordanian and Tunisian centres and is intended to consolidate coordination and promote development trends in both countries.

The Jordanian delegation arrived in Tunis Sunday on a five-day visit to Tunisia to take part in the second session of the joint Jordanian-Tunisian Technical Committee meetings which will focus on production of maps, the execution of joint projects, and increasing the prospects for exchange of expertise between the two countries.

JPA team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Psychiatric Association (JPA) delegation returned home Sunday after taking part in the fourth Arab psychiatrists conference which concluded in Sana'a, North Yemen, Saturday.

The conference has recommended the study of all laws and resolutions concerning psychiatric patients in Arab countries according to president of the Arab Psychiatrists Union Adnan Takriti.

He said that the executive com-

mittee of the union has called the Arab Health Ministers Council to include the specialisation in psychiatric medicine in the list of priorities of the Arab Higher Council for Medical Specialisations.

Takriti also said that the committee also asked Arab ministers of health and higher education to promote the medical education in the field of primary health and to increase the interest in teaching the psychiatry.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasli Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition which includes publications on the Palestinian issue at the Yarmouk University.
- * A photographic exhibition, held on the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, by Karine and Denisiev at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition on French poet de Prévert at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Khaleel Masri at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Akram Haddad and Lebanese artist Fatima Hussein at Alla Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition on the Great Arab Revolt which includes photos, maps and documents at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition marking the second anniversary of the intifada at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * A book exhibition at Jordan University of Science and Technology.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "The Silver Treasure from Ruseifa" by Prof. Dr. Tito Ulbert at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- * A seminar (in Arabic) on the influence of the intifada on literature at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- * Arabic poetry recital marking the second anniversary of the intifada at the Palestinian embassy — 6:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- * A musical play entitled Oh Coward at Hotel Jordan International.

FILM

- * A Soviet documentary film entitled Energy at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONGRATULATIONS: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday received a congratulatory cable from the Cypriot Parliament Speaker, on his appointment as senate speaker. Also Monday Lawzi chaired meetings of the House's financial, legal, administrative, foreign affairs and educational committees. The committees elected each of Najib Rashdan, Khalil Al Salem, Hamad Farhan, Khalid Tarawneh and Bashir Sabagh as rapporteurs of the legal, financial, foreign affairs, administrative and educational committees respectively. (Petra)

ARAR RECEIVES ENVOYS: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Salehman Arar Monday received ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates, Canada and Morocco in Amman, who called at the Parliament to extend their congratulations to him on his election as speaker of the House. Arar also received the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theodoros who extended congratulations to the House speaker. (Petra)

FAQIR CHAIRS MEETING: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ali Al Faqir Monday chaired a meeting for the ministry's department heads and stressed the need for the teamwork. Faqir called for enjoying good manners and setting an example for people. He noted that the ministry was the focus of people's attention and called on all its staff to take Prophet Mohammad as their ideal. (Petra)

TALHOUNI RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS: First Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Talhouni Monday received a congratulatory cable from Valentina Terechkova, chairman of the Soviet Cultural Relations Society on his election as first deputy Upper House speaker. (Petra)

MODEL WHEELCHAIR: Jordanian Sports Federation for the Handicapped Monday received a special wheelchair donated by the Australian government. The new chair will serve as a model for the chairs to be assembled in Jordan by the federation. The federation's secretary general, Yusef Al Karni, received the chair on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd, the chairman of the federation, from the Australian Ambassador to Jordan Robert Bawker. Prince Ra'd Sunday received the Australian ambassador and discussed with him means of developing bilateral relations in the field of sports for the handicapped. (Petra)

YOUTH ART EXHIBITION: The Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod Tuesday opens the Youths Art Exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The Spanish ambassador will distribute awards to the winners in the exhibition in which 25 youths are participating. The exhibition, organised by the Spanish Culture Centre for the second time, aims at boosting the Jordanian-Spanish relations in the field of arts and to encourage art. The exhibition will continue till the end of December. (J.T.)

COURT ISSUES FINES, JAIL TERMS: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Ahmad Mohammad Tilakh to the payment of JD 200 fine for failing to declare prices of supply commodities and hiding cigarettes. Salem Mubsin Shihadeh Ghneim was sentenced to three month imprisonment for storing foodstuffs unsuitable for human consumption and the Petra Supply Company was sentenced to the payment of JD 225 on the same charge. The court also sentenced each of Mohammad Jamal Abdul Rahman Al Halabi, Munthir Yasin Hussein Al Homs (Syrian nationals), Ahmad Ibrahim Ahmad Amin, and Amjad Ibrahim Ahmad Amin to seven and a half years with hard labour each with the payment of JD 5,000 fine. The military governor endorsed all sentences. (Petra)

LECTURE ON ARAB MAGHREB UNION: Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Al Muji Al Habib Monday delivered a lecture at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) entitled: "The building of Arab Maghreb: Past experience and future challenges." In his lecture, the ambassador reviewed the concept of Arab Maghreb Federation throughout ages and noted that any Maghreb unity is contingent on attainment of participation, the minimum limit of democracy, preservation of human rights, and continued unionist efforts. Present were JUST President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni and his deputies for administrative and academic affairs, a number of deans, staff members and a number of students. (Petra)

TENNIS FINALS: The community college final table tennis matches were held Monday at the Zarqa Community College during which Iba Khaldoun College beat Jerusalem College 2-1 and the Arab College beat Al Husun Polytechnic Institute 2-1. Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki presented cups and medals to the winning teams. The director of the Zarqa Police Department, a number of deans from various parts of the Kingdom attended the matches. (Petra)

FOOD TESTING: Participants in a symposium on scientific methods for drawing foodstuffs samples Monday discussed several working papers on foodstuff manufacturing, quality control and physical testing. The symposium, organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the Royal Scientific Society, aims at highlighting the importance of drawing samples of foodstuff for lab testing, to ensure their conformity with the specifications, validity and their suitability for human consumption. (Petra)

Jordan welcomes French initiative on Euro-Arab dialogue

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan welcomes the French initiative to hold an Arab-European dialogue, since this stems from Jordan's clear position which calls for reinforcing this dialogue owing to the distinguished Arab-European relations, Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League Talal Sa'at Al Hassan said Monday.

"The Arab-European ministerial meeting constitutes a large and important step towards reactivating and bolstering dialogue between the two sides," Hassan added during a meeting of the Arab committee to the dialogue held in Tunis Monday in the presence of Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kilibi.

Hassan also welcomed France's positions toward Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question.

The ministerial meeting, due to convene under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II and French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris on Dec. 22, will discuss reactivating Arab-European dialogue as well as entrenching understanding between the two sides in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, so that this would serve mutual interests and pave the way towards security and stability in the region and the world at large.

The Arab committee to the dialogue issued a statement Monday noting that it would continue its meetings for the next two days to complete preparations for the dialogue.

Badran receives congratulations

King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called at the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in the presence of the Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

King Hussein issued his directives on a number of issues of interest to the citizens and to the country.

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh attended part of the meeting.

Badran Monday received a congratulatory cable from his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zu'bi on the formation of the new government in Jordan.

In his cable Zu'bi praised the cooperation between both countries and wished Badran continued success in his duties and the Jordanian government further progress and prosperity.

Badran also received congratulatory cables from the Secretary General of the Libyan People's General Congress, the Soviet premier, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative and representative of the Economic Commission in Amman.

Also Monday, Badran received in his office the Sudanese Minister of Trade and Cooperation Farouq Al Bishri and reviewed with him means of developing bilateral relations in the industrial, commercial and agricultural fields.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese charge d'affaires.

Badran met with the Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, and member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya, who called at the Prime Ministry to congratulate him on his appointment as prime minister.

Badran received the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Soviet Union who congratulated him on his appointment, and chairman and members of Amman Chamber of Industry and outables from refugee camps, and the Greek Orthodox bishop. Badran received the deputy secretary general of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions and the federation members who called at the Prime Ministry to congratulate him on the formation of the new government.

The federation Monday sent a cable of thanks to Badran for the government's initiative to release detainees, to give back the confiscated passports to their owners and to allow people to move freely.

In its cable the federation said that the government's initiative, implemented upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, "deserves appreciation and applause because it contributes to enhancing and consolidating the meaning of general freedoms, and paves the way for democracy."

"It also highlights the civilised and bright image of Jordan and strengthens the feeling of belonging," the cable said.



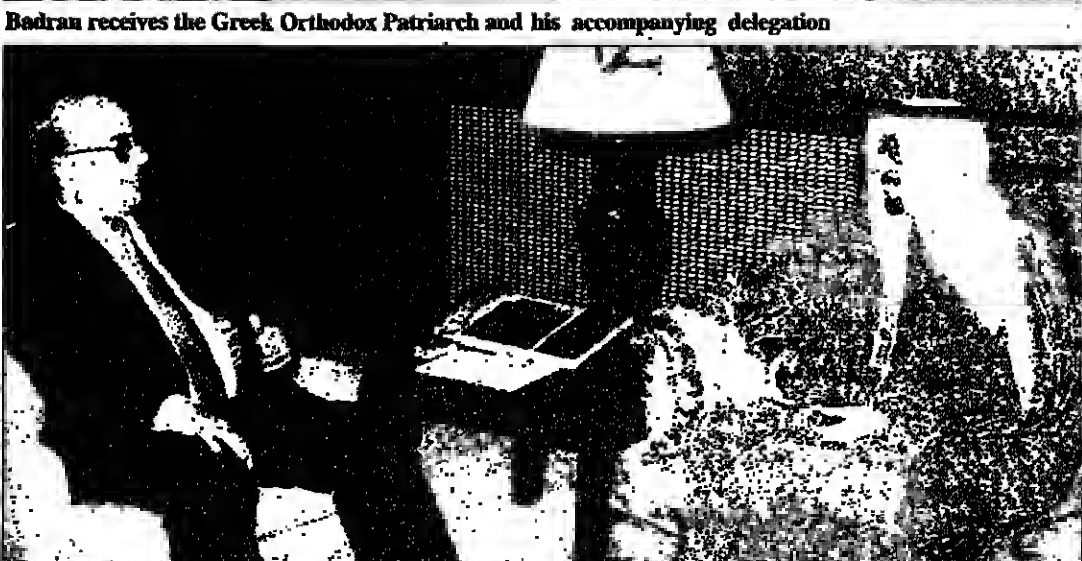
His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the Prime Ministry (Petra photos)



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday receives Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and PLO member Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya at the Prime Ministry



Badran receives the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and his accompanying delegation



The prime minister with the Saudi ambassador

Aoun loyalists clash with Geagea militia in east Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

anarchy. The president has threatened to use force to oust Aoun.

As a member of a coalition of Christian parties, Geagea has endorsed the last peace plan which Hrawi has vowed to implement. But Aoun remains vehemently opposed to the pact.

The LF abruptly cancelled a joint rally with the rightwing Christian Falange Party scheduled for Saturday in east Beirut at which Geagea was expected to make an important policy speech.

The militia said the rally was cancelled because of bad weather and would be held later. But some sources have said it was called off to avoid a confrontation with the army.

LF workers had prepared for the rally by replacing posters of

Aoun with posters of Geagea on the streets of east Beirut.

Falange party members were beaten in a fist-fight with army commandos Friday they tried to stick posters of Falange leader George Sadeh near an army base in the mountain village of Broumana, east of Beirut, security sources reported.

Hrawi has fired Aoun from all his posts. But the general is holding out with 20,000 loyal troops in the presidential palace, located in the Christian enclave.

Hrawi, Aoun and Geagea are all Maronites, the Christian sect that has dominated power in Lebanon since it gained independence from France in 1943.

Aoun has rejected Hrawi's presidency, calling him a "Syrian puppet" because he was elected by parliament in an area control-

led by the Syrian army in east Lebanon.

The Syrians moved in reinforcements two weeks ago and have threatened to evict Aoun by force from the Baabda place, eight kilometres east of Beirut.

But tens of thousands of supporters have since formed a human wall around the hilltop place in a massive display of pro-Aoun sentiment in the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

Geagea has declared his militia would fight alongside Aoun's army if the enclave was attacked by the Syrians, who maintain 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

But he has since been putting on a rival show of popularity, with thousands of demonstrators flocking daily to his east Beirut

war council command headquarters to pledge allegiance to his militia.

Geagea also made it plain in televised speeches to his supporters that he recognises Hrawi's legitimacy, always referring to him as "President Hrawi."

Geagea's militia was the undisputed ruler of the enclave since its formation in 1980 until Aoun unleashed his troops in the four-day crackdown on the Lebanese Forces last February.

By police count, 82 people were killed and 200 wounded in that confrontation that established Aoun as the main power in the enclave.

The Lebanese Forces power base has since been reduced to a small salient around the port of Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

Israel threatens tripartite talks

(Continued from page 1)

A foreign ministry official said Israel believed the Americans would do all they could to ensure the meeting would take place.

"The Americans will do everything possible now to lock all exists from the process," the official said.

The meeting is to decide which Palestinians will attend talks on Israeli-proposed elections for the 1.7 million Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker on Oct. 10 called for the Israeli-Palestinian meeting to take place in Egypt.

"The next step after Washington is Cairo. I believe the Americans will do everything possible to ensure no one gets off the train until it reaches Cairo," the foreign ministry official said.

Israel conditionally accepted the Baker plan last month, and Egypt — after consulting the PLO — approved it last week. Baker told Arafat that Cairo accepted the plan without conditions.

The latest possible obstacle to talks followed weekend news reports that secret contacts already were under way among Israeli, Egyptian, American and Palesti-

nian officials to draw up a list of Palestinian negotiators.

A PLO spokesman in Cairo, Said Kamal, told the Yediot Achronot daily the organisation had been asked to draw up three lists of names for presentation to the Israelis, the paper said Monday.

On Sunday, Yediot listed some of the Palestinians under consideration as Faisal Hussein, Radwan Abu Ayyash, Hannah Simora, and Assad Saftawi.

Saftawi confirmed the reported behind-the-scenes contacts to the Associated Press and said he was heading to Cairo this week for

talks on the subject.

But Israeli officials denied the report, saying the contacts had not reached the stage of putting together a list of negotiators.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told a U.S. interview panel that Palestinians should be able to choose their own representatives at the proposed talks.

Asked about Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, Arafat said, "With whom they are going to make peace? With ghosts?" Arafat was speaking by satellite from Baghdad on the NBC television network's "Meet the Press."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Perestroika in action...

PRIME Minister Mudar Badran's affirmation before the Parliament Sunday that his government was moving boldly and resolutely to secure public freedoms, including the lifting of martial laws, ushers a new era that can best be characterised as a Jordanian perestroika. It is also clear that His Majesty King Hussein himself stands firmly behind the new policies which were outlined on so many occasions beginning with the speech from the Throne and ending with the Royal letter of designation to Mr. Badran.

It was no coincidence that Prime Minister Badran was chosen for putting the country at the threshold of this new era. To begin with, the mammoth task of turning the country around calls for a leadership that is genuinely convinced of the mission. Prime Minister Badran's words of assurance Sunday that he was putting the whole weight of his new government behind the process of liberalisation and accountability are the words of a man who totally shares the new ideas and fully subscribes to them. In fact the prime minister hinted during the deliberation of the Parliament Sunday that the entire country suffered from the previous situation.

Thus as the entire people of Jordan celebrate the first fruits of Jordanian perestroika, whether in the form of returning passports to their owners, the release of political detainees or the lifting of the ban on the employment of Jordanians accused of hostile political thought, the Kingdom awaits the final verdict on the martial law regime still in operation in the country. To be sure the continuation of the martial law regime is anathema to the new era of liberalisation that is rapidly sweeping through the Kingdom since it implies the suspension of some basic rights and freedoms. Yet the transformation from a martial law system to normalcy would certainly require examination of the full implications of such a step in the light of the experience of the country since the imposition of the regime. Such a time-out to pursue the after effects of lifting martial law should be comparable to the time taken when the regime was instituted in the first place. Meanwhile phasing out the application of martial law on a gradual basis would offer an intermediate solution that could be acceptable to the two prevailing schools of thought on the subject. In this vein, it would be sensible to issue directives to restrict the application of martial law to a limited situations on which all the three branches of state have consensus. Concurrently with such a gradual phasing out of martial laws, there must be a deliberate attempt to energise the court system in the country by able men and by the introduction of proper technology in order to fill the void that will inevitably be created.

... glasnost too

THE LAST vestige of scepticism and doubt over the new era that has dawned on Jordan was removed Monday with the government's decision to take its hands off the press by returning the management of the three major newspaper establishments to their rightful owners, who had nursed and developed them for years only to see them being taken away in August last year. Indeed, the move has also confounded many who had always been arguing that the dawn of a new phase in the history of Jordan was only just so much of ink on paper and nothing was going to change in real terms. Coming closely on the heels of offering the Jordanians the most free and honest elections in the Arab World, the leadership's decision to free the press from all shackles is an unmistakable reaffirmation of the reality of a new political life in the Kingdom; the Jordanian perestroika, glasnost, call it what you will, but the fact remains that the swiftness with which the government of Mudar Badran moved to rectify mistakes and misguided policies speaks volumes for the sense of purpose and determination of the Kingdom's leadership to put the past behind them and embark on a new course for the country, its institutions and people.

Needless to say, press is one of the fundamental pillars on which the development of a country is built, and the restoration of all press freedoms as implied in Monday's government decision reflects the leadership's deep conviction that the Kingdom's turn towards a new course would be successful only if coupled with the freedom of expression. Now, with the process of democracy taking roots in the country's political psyche and with the openness that the whole system of government is adopting, the latest move to free the press puts the print media on its right track. There is no alternative to a free, informative, objective and non-biased media that keep people informed of realities. Needless to say, the past one year plus was a dismal period in the history of journalism in Jordan. With the unfolding of the economic crisis late in 1988, newspapers were used to blame the problems on everyone, including the ordinary citizen, but not on the real culprits. And, last but not the least, after His Majesty King Hussein announced the Nov. 8 elections, some journalists went to the extent of casting a cloud over the entire election and democratisation process in the country.

Over and above everything else, the Jordanian citizens have more than enough to celebrate with the changes in the newspapers simply because the triumphant return of the former chief editor of Al Ra'i, Mahmoud Al Kayed, to his rightful place at the helm of Jordan's largest-circulation daily is not only a source of excitement and pleasure for the newspaper's staff but also for the legitimacy and credibility of the Jordanian press.

Mother, midwife of Palestinian state

By Sari Nusseibeh

THE INTIFADA is a people's unarmed revolution against occupation. Its two main slogans, repeated countless times in the directives issued by the underground leadership, are freedom and independence. It has employed a dual strategy to achieve these two objectives.

First, a comprehensive civil disobedience campaign was begun by which people severed, or minimised, all the contact points by which they were bound to the Israeli occupation authority. This campaign included resignations of Palestinians officials from public posts, the boycott of Israeli goods and products, and the refusal to pay taxes and fines. Partial and full strikes, demonstrations, sit-ins, conventions... all these have in fact only constituted the outer layer of an inner mechanism of civilian rebellion.

The second, and complementary, part of the intifada strategy concentrated on the construction of an indigenous national authority. As Israel's authority was being lifted, the population began creating an alternative authority of their own. Popular committees were established in villages, refugee camps, suburbs, streets, in fact in every community. Some headway was made in expanding self-sufficiency, whether through utilising more land for agriculture, developing home economies, or encouraging local manufacturers and products. Villages and refugee camps were thus being developed into "liberated" or "independent" areas, if not militarily, then at least psychologically, politically and infrastructurally.

Bloody clashes would occur whenever armoured units raided these villages, storming through makeshift defensive road blocks and responding to rocks being thrown with live bullets and tear gas; but no sooner would these army units be gone than authority would revert to the village residents. Palestinian flags would be raised on minarets and church spires, road blocks would again be erected, and life in all its aspects would once again be run by the local leadership.

The structure of the developing national authority has been both diffuse enough to prevent it from being destroyed by any one single sweep of arrests (there have been more than 50,000 arrests since the intifada's outbreak), and coherent enough to allow for the existence of a unified resistance strategy.

While the entire network of popular committees, local institutions and the general public constitute the field commanders in the battle of civilian disobedience and of constructing a political infrastructure, a rotating Unified National Command acts in the role of field-general, issuing a bi-monthly directive outlining policy and determining specific resistance programmes. A high level of mobility in the structure allows for continuous interchange of roles and ideas, and retains for the Unified National Command the closeness to grass roots that is required to make it truly reflect people's wishes and sentiments.

THIS expanded network of popular committees and institutions making up the unified leadership is infused by tens of thousands of activists who belong to, or identify with, the different factions of the PLO. In effect, therefore, the PLO exists at all levels of organisation within the occupied territories. Thus the Palestinian national movement both inside and outside the occupied territories is an organic whole.

The pattern of the intifada has been cyclical. Thrusts of resistance (mass demonstrations, resignations, tax rebellions, etc) would come in crests. The pattern is determined by a wide variety of factors, including what the Israeli army does. But the relation is complex, not uni-directional.

Harsh measures — putting an entire community under an absolute curfew for a continuous lengthy period of time, demolishing homes, uprooting olive or citrus trees, physical intimidation and terror tactics employed by raiding army units, shooting, killing, cutting off water or electricity supplies and telephone links to villages or towns, mass arrests, intimidatory interrogation techniques — can either create a temporary lull or activate an eruption. The army never knows which it will be. It is as if it is walking through a minefield.

The wave-like pattern of the intifada, its pains and sufferings, are all reminiscent of the process of birth. The metaphor is apt, as Palestinians regard themselves as engaging in a process of giving birth to their independent Palestinian state. Through their revolution, the masses are both mother and midwife to the birth of this state. The intifada is the midwife of freedom. Through it, Palestinians are struggling on a daily basis to shake off Israel's authority and to construct their own.

The struggle reflects a revolution in mass consciousness, by which people have come to realise that ideas and aspirations must be embodied in manifest acts if reality is to be changed. Thus, wherever one looks, one finds people engaged in the construction of the blocks that will make up the Palestinian state. It is a conscious effort. The masses are being engaged in the craft of state-masonry.

In this process of state building, many stages have been covered. The Declaration of Independence issued by the Palestine National Council (PNC) on November 15 last year constitutes a major landmark along this road. Its significance lies in its double message; that the aim of the Palestinian struggle is the establishment of Palestinian independence, and that this independence is regarded as being not at Israel's expense.

This has been a constant theme of intifada policy: that we wish to build (Palestine), not to destroy (Israel); that we wish to achieve freedom (for our people), not to deprive others (Israelis) of it; that we wish to protect and save lives (ours), not to endanger the lives of others (Israelis).

In one of several intifada leaflets written in Hebrew and addressed to the Israeli soldiers on duty in the occupied territories, the message was repeated: Soldier, go home. Return to your family and children. Be with them in peace so that we may remain with our family and children in peace. We do not wish to harm you, or your state. We wish to be unharmed, in our own state.

How can the process of state building be developed? If the PNC Declaration of Independence constituted a major landmark in this process, the time has come to embark on another major step, that of declaring the

setting up of a state or government structure.

AN ESCALATION of the intifada in this direction would serve two purposes at once. First, it would consolidate the structures of the developing national authority which is competing to replace the occupation authority. Second, it would consolidate the image and essence of the intifada as a constructive, not a destructive, force.

Naturally, to embark on such a step is not necessarily to succeed immediately in realising it. Rather, it is a challenge. It will be a further challenge to Israel's occupation, conceived in the image of earlier challenges of the intifada. But it will also be a challenge to us, Palestinians, summoning us to work more energetically towards the idea's fulfilment.

It would be a natural extension of the intifada's dual strategy towards disengagement from Israel, and the corresponding process of state building. It would further naturalise and legitimise the evolving skeletal form of Palestinian independence. It would provide the multitudinous popular committees and activities with a more advanced form of organisation and structure. It would enable better planning and performance. It would maximise civilian tactics of resistance and defend the natural potential for violence, containing and eventually eliminating the marginal but intrusive phenomenon of collaborator activation by Israeli security, authorities and collaborator-execution by local Palestinians.

It would create a further fact that would put Israel on the spot. Israel's reaction, however hostile,

could only further our cause. Arresting or deporting the tens of thousands of Palestinian professionals who would be employed in perfectly apolitical, harmless and humanitarian jobs can only further isolate the Israeli government. Half-way measures can only imply half-way success. A modus vivendi would also imply success.

In general, our policy should be to proceed with building our state block by block, without waiting to be given a gift of it through negotiations. We should regard negotiations rather as the means by which we could establish formal agreements between our state and Israel. Such agreements can range from the issue of borders to the issue of free wave-lengths for our future television and radio networks.

In the meantime, we have the capacity to bring coherence and organisation to a whole range of activities, further consolidating the institutional linkage between the people in the occupied state and the PLO leadership. Entire departments can be set up, in health, foreign affairs, agriculture, trade, finance, education, justice, religion, information and social welfare. A pyramid administrative structure, establishing links from popular committees in villages right up to the Executive Committee of the PLO (in its capacity as a Cabinet), can be established.

During the intifada the people have been engaged in building the side walls. A government would provide the roof which would bring these walls together. It would add another necessary touch in the process of creating a Palestinian home — The Guardian.

U.S. defence industry on shaky ground

By Randolph Picht
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The big thaw in U.S.-Soviet relations means new vulnerability for the American defence industry, long used to fat budgets and hefty Defence Department orders.

As Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika politics have reduced military tensions, American popular support for big defence budgets has fallen. The entire role of what is commonly called the military-industrial complex is becoming as unstable as the crumbling Berlin Wall.

Last month, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney made headlines worldwide with talk of drastic budget cuts at the Defence Department, perhaps \$180 billion through 1994.

"I think everyone would agree that this was a fun industry to be in, maybe in the 1950s, but now it's become so combative, competitive and uncertain that it's really a tough place to be," said Thomas McNaughton, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based research group.

As world politics are redefined in the 1990s, there is no doubt the U.S. defence industry will undergo a drastic reshaping. What's unclear is how severe the consolidation will be and who will survive.

"We're reaching a crisis point right now," said William van Cleave, director of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at Southwest Missouri State University.

"Because of the great uncertainty, companies are unable to do proper planning and invest in research and development. It's just barely viable now to come up with new projects."

Many investors already have concluded defence companies will suffer because of the East-

West stand-down. They're funneled money into other businesses.

As a group, defence company stocks are at a 15-year low in relative price-earnings ratios compared to the broader market. Stock prices for the largest defence contractors, such as St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas and fellow giants General Dynamics, Lockheed and Raytheon, have hit 52-week lows.

Although the industry has expected for some time that demand for new weapons and equipment would drop, the past few months have highlighted the shaky future for makers of jet fighters, tanks and even combat boots.

"It's like knowing that someone is going to turn the shower off. It's not until the cold water finally hits you that you start thinking about how unpleasant it is," said Paul Nisbet, an aerospace stock analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. in New York.

But he thinks stock prices have fallen purely on the shift of psychology.

"I think the prices are ridiculously low. Now's the time to buy," he said.

The defence industry is accustomed to ups and downs, enjoying booms in war and suffering lean times in peace. But that pattern changed because of former President Ronald Reagan's unprecedented peacetime military buildup this decade.

For instance, at General Dynamics' plane-building plant in Fort Worth, Texas, employment went from 28,000 in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, to 7,100 in 1972. Today, employment at the plant, which builds F-16 fighters for the air force, is at 31,500.

With the threat of war diminishing every day, the defence industry knows the fat years under Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger are

gone, but the readjustment is bound to be painful.

The biggest sufferers likely will be regions that depend heavily on jobs created by sophisticated multibillion-dollar defence procurement orders, such as parts of the states of Missouri, Massachusetts, California and New York.

At McDonnell Douglas, officials said they are taking a "wait-and-see" attitude. Bot Cassell Williams, president of the company's largest union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, finds that response alarming.

"I want to go to Washington. I'll talk to whoever I have to because this could become a major catastrophe before you know it," he said. "We hear this stuff on TV, read it in the newspaper every day and we think about our jobs."

One possible alternative for the defence industry is to diversify into other products. But the history of weapons makers manufacturing peacetime goods has been dismal. After the Vietnam war, defence contractors tried building everything from hydrofoils to solar energy equipment.

The best example might be Grumman Corp., a Bethpage, New York-based aircraft builder. The company's diversification flops have included buses and power-driven wheelbarrows.

McDonnell Douglas, which makes aircraft for the air force, navy and marines, says it is "uniquely qualified" to shift gears for a peace economy. It already is the second largest maker of commercial airliners behind Boeing Co.

But for the first nine months of the year McDonnell Douglas's transport aircraft segment lost \$227 million and the subsidiary that builds those planes, Douglas Aircraft Co. of Long Beach, California, underwent a major reorganisation.

Baker's delicate mission

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker embarked on a delicate mission Monday to try to reconcile hopes and fears of German reunification among Western European allies.

Baker's schedule, taking him to London, Berlin, Bonn and Brussels, reflects the need to ease growing strains among U.S. allies who fear that the impetus toward German reunification is going too fast and threatens to destabilise central Europe.

"After 40 years when the Soviet finger was pressed to the stop button, it's suddenly gone not to forward but to fast forward," said one administration official.

"Now, we have a balancing act of guiding the process of redefining Germany in a slow and orderly way while maintaining allied unity, and all this without being seen to delay or obstruct what the German people themselves want."

In Berlin on Tuesday, Baker is expected to reiterate Washington's vision of "a Europe whole and free."

But officials say the key parts of his trip will be talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn and NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.

Washington wants to ease British and French fears about the seemingly unstoppable drive for German reunification while persuading Kohl to let international diplomatic considerations rather

than domestic politics guide his actions.

Officials said the unification debate so far had been unstructured, with West Germany, France, Poland, the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States floating different ideas.

But the Western allies now have to take a more unified stance to avoid the prospect of events in East Germany spinning out of control.

President George Bush enunciated four principles of U.S. policy on Germany after the Malta summit.

These were that Germans themselves must have the ultimate say about their future, that West Germany must remain part of NATO and the European Community, that moves towards unification should be gradual and peaceful and that there should be no change in European borders.

But within these parameters lies ample room for dispute and disagreement, U.S. officials admit.

For instance, East Germans may express a wish for reunification as early as next May when national elections are tentatively scheduled. But West Germans may not be so keen to take on the burden of reviving the ruined East German economy.

The Soviet Union, which currently refuses to discuss the unification issue at all, has to be persuaded to engage in dialogue so that any transition is peaceful. But a condition for this is a unified Western stance, the officials said.

Searching for such unity has already brought Washington into conflict with Thatcher, who seems the least enthusiastic about

the idea of the two Germanys coming together.

Diplomats said Baker added a meeting with Thatcher to his schedule after the U.S. ambassador in London told Bush he was concerned at the rift opening up between the two countries, which have enjoyed a "special relationship" for the past four decades.

Nevertheless, U.S. officials said the close friendship Thatcher had with former President Ronald Reagan had given way to a stronger U.S. concentration on ties with West Germany and the European Community as a whole.

"There is a recognition that Germany is the key partner, the single most powerful European country... and there is not the same chemistry between Bush and Thatcher as between Reagan and Thatcher," one official said.

One British diplomat said: "The Americans don't know what they're talking about when they endorse European integration as a way of hindering West Germany to Europe."

Baker is expected to tell Kohl not to make any more major policy speeches on unification, as he did last month, without consulting his allies first.

"Very close consultation is very important in all this. Some people were upset they weren't brought in on the Kohl speech ahead of time," said one official.

Human rights dominate Chilean elections

By Anthony Beadle
Reuters

SANTIAGO — Families of hundreds of Chilean political prisoners who "disappeared" during military rule are pinning their hopes on an opposition victory in Thursday's presidential election to learn what happened to their relatives.

Their demands for investigations and trials could become the thorniest issue faced by the first civilian president to take office since General Augusto Pinochet seized power in a bloody coup 16 years ago.

More than 1,500 people died in the overthrow of the Socialist government of President Salvador Allende. Over the next five years, according to the Roman Catholic church, at least 772 people vanished in the military's "dirty war" against leftist opponents.

"This country suffers a moral trauma caused by the human rights violations committed under this regime. For some Chileans it is a wound that is still open," said opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin, the clear favourite in public opinion polls.

"We want to establish the truth and do justice," he said.

But Pinochet, who plans to stay on as commander-in-chief of the army after handing over the government on March 11, has

warned that the armed forces will not allow their members to be put on trial for alleged abuses.

"No one is going to touch my people. The day they do, the state of law will come to an end," he said recently.

Pinochet, whose government has been condemned annually by the United Nations for alleged abuses, admits there may have been excesses in what he calls a "civil war against Marxist subversion."

The centre-left coalition backing Aylwin has pledged to review an 11-year-old amnesty that bars prosecution of anybody accused of violations committed before 1978.

Aylwin, a moderate Christian Democrat lawyer, has ruled out a government investigation or collective trials against military leaders, such as occurred in neighbouring Argentina after democratic rule was restored in 1983.

Instead, his programme calls for human rights violations to be dealt with in ordinary courts on an case-by-case basis.

Some opposition leaders, however, fear a repeat of the turbulent transition to democracy in Argentina, where the rights issue sparked three army revolts before President Carlos Menem put an end to the trials this year.

They would prefer to forgive and forget for the sake of democratic stability, following the ex-

ample of Uruguay, where an amnesty was decreed and later approved to a plebiscite.

The strongest pressure for trials will come from the far-left, particularly the Communist Party, which suffered the brunt of the repression.

Human rights organisations have documented tens of thousands of cases of alleged arbitrary arrests, kidnappings, torture and killings since 1973.

But their lawyers believe the truth will not be known unless the 1978 amnesty is annulled because it has been used to block investigations.

One of the most notorious cases is that of 72 Allende supporters allegedly taken from jails and garages in northern Chile and executed without trial by army officers more than a month after the 1973 coup.

Their families were given death certificates, but the bodies were buried secretly in mass graves.

"We will never be able to investigate what happened if the amnesty remains in force," says lawyer Carmen Hertz, whose husband, journalist Carlos Berger, and 25 others were shot and buried in the desert outside the northern mining town of Calama.

A lawsuit filed by Hertz in 1985 was dismissed within 48 hours by a lower court judge because of the amnesty.

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A plea for peace

Protests become rituals

By Ian Black

FROM the balcony of the breeze-blooming house overlooking the Beit Hanoun cemetery in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, the scene below looked curiously unreal, like a photograph of a riot in an old newspaper.

"Ya maniak," the young Palestinian bellowed hoarsely at the soldiers advancing up the slope. Children choked and spluttered as dense white clouds of teargas drifted around them.

It was mid-morning in Beit Hanoun and this time the women and schoolgirls were at the forefront of the confrontation, parading with flags and wreaths to commemorate their martyrs. The Israelis waited patiently in the command post at one end of the sandy open square until the march began. Then they moved quickly.

First the jeeps zoomed crazily across the patch of wasteland next to the cemetery to try to catch the nearest stone-throwers. Every time a shot rang out — plastic bullets, everyone hoped — the crowd dispersed, to regroup a few minutes later.

As the Palestinian uprising

approaches its second anniversary this weekend, the people of this Gaza Strip village have become old hands at such routine, almost ritualistic, clashes with their occupiers. Even the toddlers seem fearless.

Normal it may be, but there is still something moving — and deeply frightening — about the pigtails girls who have the stinging gas and bullets to curse and confront the soldiers.

Until two days ago, Gaza had been unexcitingly quiet for over a month, with few violent clashes, no killings and a relatively low number of casualties. Mass arrests and a cautious new Israeli army commander seemed to have brought the heat in the narrow coastal strip down several degrees.

Suddenly that has changed. On Dec. 3 a 10-year-old girl was shot dead by a steel marble in Shati refugee camp. On Dec. 4, people were injured in an unrest sparked off by news that a prisoner had been found hanged in the interrogation wing of Gaza Jail used by the Shin Bet security service.

Events elsewhere have fuelled the flames: last week the Israelis

killed four of the hardline Black Panther in the West Bank town of Nablus, as well as two masked youths near Jerusalem. Bad news travels fast in these parts.

Gaza's intifada has been a saga of suffering and sacrifice, and every family has its tale to tell. Kamal, who is 34 but looks 10 years older, has been on the run for five months, sleeping rough in the orange groves and daring to visit his wife and six children in Beit Hanoun for only a few minutes at a time.

"If conditions continue like this," Kamal said defiantly, huddled in a thin jacket against the biting cold, "I will go on, too. I believe our leadership has made too many concessions to the Israelis and the Americans. Now they must concentrate on improving our struggle."

Most Palestinians know that they are not winning. In the long hot summer months, they failed in a campaign to stop Gazans working in Israel and to boycott the distribution of magnetic identity cards.

For the Israelis, the stone-throwing is an irritant, little more. Hundreds of Palestinian activists are now behind bars and

although they are quickly replaced, there is no endless pool of natural leaders. Young men who can find work continue to cross the pre-1967 "green line" border into Israel.

Still the intifada lives. At noon, south of Beit Hanoun in the huge Jabalya refugee camp — where it all began on December 9, 1987 — helmeted and visored soldiers were darting up and down the narrow alleys, playing a deadly game of cat and mouse with the Palestinian kids.

Hatred burns in the air. At the home of Jamal Al Sheriki, the prisoner found hanged in his cell, friends and relatives sat in silent mourning, sipping bitter coffee and smoking. He was arrested in October after driving a car at a soldier and Shin Bet agent, who had to have both his legs amputated.

There is not a Palestinian in all of Gaza who believes Israel's claim that Jamal committed suicide. All have heard of the choking hoods used during interrogations. "The Jews killed my son, they killed my son," his mother wailed, to no one in particular. The war goes on. — The Guardian.

Organised crime — getting ready for 1992

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — As the European business world gears up for 1992, the Mafia's organised crime network is making its own plans for cashing in on the event. Italian crime fighters have warned that a system designed to remove trade barriers within the European Community will make it child's play for the mob to move narcotics and capital earned from drug-trafficking.

As early as July 1 next year, all 12 member countries of the EC are expected to lift currency controls as well as restrictions on shifting capital within the EC. But the end of 1992, the community's borders will have been entirely dismantled.

"There are those who say that the Mafia can already move its people and its money wherever it likes in the world, but this will undoubtedly make life much easier for them," says Gerardo Chiaromonte, president of the Italian Parliament's Anti-Mafia Commission. "I am very concerned that the absence of any borders whatsoever will enable the Mafia to circulate its drugs and its capital even more freely than at present. Quite clearly this would have dire consequences, particularly when it comes to trying to put a halt to the recycling of Mafia drug money."

In Italy the Mafia traditionally launders its money through property speculation and by using its cash to set up companies which specialise in competing for lucrative local government contracts. Bribes to city council officials ensure that the contracts go to Mafia-owned firms, and often that projects for unnecessary bridges, roads and tunnels get public funding. A report by the Italian Treasury revealed that in 1988 the regional government of Sicily — the Mafia's home base — awarded public works contracts worth a staggering \$1.85 billion.

But already there are clear signs that the mob is looking further afield for ways to recycle its huge drug profits. The financial interests of Italian organised crime are no longer confined to its Sicilian homeland. A new strategy is to take over "clean" companies in the north of Italy. Pietro Bassetti, head of Milan's chamber of commerce, recently reported that 15 per cent of the total turnover produced by the region of Lombardy — which includes industrially rich Milan — is now Mafia-controlled. Last year Treasury Minister Carlo Ciampi, then head of the state-owned Bank of Italy, warned that

the Mafia had begun infiltrating Milan's stock exchange as a way of spreading its investments.

"Once upon a time the Mafia relied on the building industry to launder its money, but today every possible economic field is used, whether it be buying up supermarket chains, banks and finance houses or investing on the stock exchange," said General Pietro Soggin, head of Italy's drug investigation bureau. "The important thing for them is to keep the money moving. Once it stands still there is a risk it can be traced."

According to Italian officials, 1992 will give the advantage to the Mafia. The absence of controls and borders within the EC could also bring added dangers, they warn. Mob-controlled companies will have greater freedom to compete for public works contracts in say Britain, France or Germany. Meanwhile, favourite Mafia tricks — such as the diverting of EC subsidies — will be tried out in other European countries, possibly with inside help from local organised crime networks.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti recently called for a more concerted effort to curb Mafia activities. In the past three months gangland killings have risen to a rate of nearly five a day as various factions fight for control of the increasingly rich drug pickings. "This is not the Italy that Europe should find in 1993," Andreotti said.

A report issued this October by Italy's Anti-Mafia Commission painted a gloomy picture: The mob's money laundering activities are out of control, it concluded.

Major hurdles

A major hurdle for Mafia-hunters is the diversity of commitment within the EC on how to tackle money laundering. "The recycling of drug money is made easier by the fact that we don't have one law in the EC to deal with it," notes Gen. Soggin. "The approach of 1992 will bring a host of new problems which make it increasingly urgent to agree on this point. We in Italy are already in contact with all the other member nations to try to come up with one uniform piece of legislation. Some countries are being very helpful, and others somewhat less so."

At present, Italy, France, Britain and Holland have fairly tough laws aimed at controlling money laundering. By contrast Belgium and Portugal have almost no legislation in this area. Earlier this year the U.S. asked

for the co-operation of Italy and other EC nations in setting up an international data base to trace the movement of any large sums of cash which may be the fruit of drug-trafficking. The Italian government replied by sending out an order to its banks to report all transactions where figures of more than \$15,000 were involved and all other cases where managers had the slightest cause for suspicion. Several other EC countries have yet to respond to this new effort by U.S. law enforcement agencies to fight the drug trade by following the money trail and seizing criminal profits.

In 1988 eight of EC members signed a document called the Basle Declaration: together with the governments of the U.S., Canada and Japan, the European signatories pledged to instruct their banks to do everything possible to discourage money laundering, to identify clients suspected by authorities and to co-operate fully with investigating officials. Experts believe, however, that the pact doesn't go far enough.

"The Basle Declaration is a step in the right direction, but it is not sufficient," said Communist Parliamentarian Franco Forleo who sits on the Anti-Mafia Commission. "The only way we will ever beat the Mafia is through full international co-operation, by creating a situation where the movement of money is far more carefully controlled."

Added Sicilian Mafia expert Pino Arlacchi, author of several books on organised crime: "The Basle Declaration is totally inadequate. The signatories did not even manage to agree on a prop-

osal put forward by the Bank of Italy to set up permanent channels of communication between the authorities in the various countries investigating money laundering."

The black sheep when it comes to international co-operation is Switzerland, with its long tradition of refusing to divulge banking secrets. Although not part of the EC, its banks play a major role in recycling Mafia profits, and many Italian officials believe that Switzerland should do more to put its house in order. Said Anti-Mafia Commissioner Domenico Sica: "The Swiss have a duty to plug holes in their law and make the bankers open their books."

Annual profits

The annual profits worldwide from drug trafficking are put by Interpol (European law enforcement agency) at \$500 billion. The Swiss banks split the business with Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, Luxembourg and some Arab states, but the Mafia trusts Switzerland the most.

Up in Lugano, a town which straddles the border between Italy and Switzerland, former public prosecutor Paul Bernasconi knows all about the frustrations of dealing with the Swiss banking system. Here large sums of Mafia cash cross over into Switzerland in the simplest and most time-honoured fashion — in suitcases stuffed with foreign bank notes. Without evidence of criminal activity, Swiss customs have no legal grounds for stopping anyone carrying even enormous amounts of hard cash. — World News Link.

House demolitions: Deterrent or unfair collective punishment?

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

JERICHO — A 65-year-old widow guided visitors through the empty rooms of the stucco house that has been her family's home for more than 40 years.

"The soldiers came and said we must empty the house," Fatima Sufarin said. "They plan to destroy it, to blow it up. It is a big problem, because my children and I have no place to go."

The 12-member Palestinian refugee family is threatened with demolition of its home as punishment for one son's activities in the uprising against Israeli occupation.

Mrs. Sufarin's son Inad, 25, was detained six months ago by the army on suspicion of throwing a molotov cocktail that wounded an Israeli soldier. He has not been brought to trial, the family said.

Military officials say the demolitions are necessary to deter violence in the nearly 2-year-old Arab uprising. But the U.S. government and international human rights organizations have criticized the policy, saying it punishes whole families for the actions of one person.

Some 244 Palestinian houses have been demolished and 116 sealed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for punitive reasons since the Arab uprising began in December 1987, army figures show.

The army provided no statistics on partial demolitions and sealings, which human rights groups estimate have damaged at least 60 more houses.

More than 750 other Arab homes have been destroyed over the past two years for failure to have building permits. The Palestinian group al Baqa, or law in the service of man, charges that the government often singles out families of uprising activists as "a backdoor way of punishment."

At least 13 demolition or sealing orders are pending in the Gaza Strip, and 16 in the West Bank, including nine in Jericho, an ancient town north of the Dead Sea.

"We cannot evaluate exactly how much it deters people," Col. Ahaz Ben-Ari, the chief legal

adviser to the West Bank military government, said in an interview.

He defended the policy as legal under emergency regulations dating to the prestate British mandate period and said military lawyers review the evidence against a suspect before approving a demolition.

Israel's supreme court in July gave Palestinians the right to appeal demolition orders, he said, though none has been overturned.

The Israel information center for human rights in the occupied territories, an Israeli-run group, termed the destruction and sealing of houses "harsh and drastic" and said it had failed as a deterrent.

The group estimates that more than 4,000 Palestinians were forced out of their homes by demolitions and sealings and added, "the uprising — in all its forms, including Molotov Cocktail throwing — continues."

In Jericho, Palestinians' families have hired lawyers to try to save their houses. Mohammed Saradeeb, whose 23-year-old son Abdullah was arrested last May on allegations he threw firebombs, has been notified his house will be sealed in punishment.

"It is too much for me," said Saradeeb, a Jericho municipal worker. "I consider my home as my blood because I worked so hard to build it. Isn't it enough that they have my son?"

Mrs. Sufarin has suffered displacement before. In 1948, she and her husband were forced from the town to Jericho when the Jewish state was founded. He died three years ago.

Today she shares her six-room house, its ceilings arched in traditional Arab style and floors covered in painted tiles — with two daughters and two sons and their families.

Ben-Ari said most of those forced out of their homes find refuge with family members or neighbors. He added that some are able to rebuild in different locations.

But Mrs. Sufarin said there are no relatives to move in with and the family may have to accept the United Nations' offer of an emergency tent.

"We told the soldiers about our conditions, but there was no

understanding person," Mrs. Sufarin said. "The soldiers say they are just carrying out orders."

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GATT sees no easing of textile restrictions by industrial world

GENEVA (R) — Industrialised nations have made little or no effort to relax restrictions imposed on textile and clothing imports from Third World producers over the last three years, a GATT report said Tuesday.

A total of 114 agreements limiting shipments now are in effect under the current 1986 multi-fibre arrangement (MFA), an umbrella accord governing about half the world's textile trade. This is only one less than the total restraints negotiated under the previous MFA which ran from 1981 to 1986, the report by GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel said.

The 51-nation MFA, first established under GATT auspices in 1974, allows advanced nations to protect their domestic textile industries against cheaper imports from developing countries by concluding individual agreements limiting foreign deliveries.

Dunkel's comments were part of an annual survey of world trade developments presented at a private session of the ruling council of the 96-member General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Developing countries bore the brunt of the restrictions under 94 accords, with the remainder applying mainly to exports from East European states, the report said.

As far as product and country coverage, growth rates for shipments and flexibility provisions were concerned there had been little or no reduction in the overall restrictiveness of the measures, it added.

The United States and Canada had increased the number of their curbs and extended their coverage, leaving growth rates generally unchanged or lower than before, and flexibility provisions largely unaltered.

Austria and Finland applied the MFA sparingly, while Norway and Sweden had introduced greater flexibility and higher growth provisions. Sweden announced greater flexibility and higher growth provisions.

Sweden announced it would end all restrictions when the MFA expires in September 1991, the report said.

The report also said that the United States appears certain to regain its place as the world's leading merchandise exporter this year, but a drive to reduce its multi-billion dollar trade deficit has lost momentum.

U.S. merchandise exports rose by 15 per cent in dollar value

terms for the first nine months of 1989, more than double the dollar value of export increases recorded by Japan and West Germany, the report said.

"The U.S. thus seems certain to regain this year its spot as the world's leading exporter in terms of the dollar value of merchandise exports, a position which it relinquished to the federal republic of (West) Germany in 1986," it added.

But the 15 per cent U.S. export growth was sharply below the 29 per cent increase registered in the first nine months of 1988. At the same time, growth of imports to the U.S. had slowed marginally to eight per cent from nine per cent, the report said.

"As the difference between export and import growth narrowed sharply, the reduction of the United States' trade deficit lost momentum," it added.

The report said that in the first nine months of this year the U.S. trade gap declined by 12 per cent compared with the same period in 1988. But for the year as a whole the decline in the current account deficit — which includes trade in services as well as merchandise — was likely to be smaller than this.

In what appeared to be implicit criticism of U.S. tactics, the report decried efforts by countries with trade deficits which sought to change the policies of states with surpluses to redress their

current account imbalances.

The U.S. puts on a list countries it regards as having protectionist policies and if these are not changed, Washington retaliates.

Such moves could lead to actions inconsistent with GATT's international trade rules, and by themselves would not bring about a lasting reduction in imbalances, the report said.

Present indications were that world production increased by three per cent in 1989 and trade by seven per cent — modestly below 1988 performances — and the outlook was for somewhat slower rates in 1990.

The strongest impetus next year was expected to come from countries in West Europe and Asia. The economies of the U.S., Canada and Britain were likely to grow at below-average rates for developed countries, with West European countries recording average figures, and Japan registering the highest rate.

Economic reforms in East Europe were expected to encourage greater trade with nations outside the region accompanied by a demand for substantial inflows of capital goods.

The situation of highly indebted nations and the least developed countries continued to be serious, and their shares of world merchandise trade was well below that of a decade ago.

Argentina makes economic 'corrections'

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The government ordered a 53.4 per cent devaluation, sharp fuel price increases and pay boosts for the public and private sectors Sunday night in an effort to cool Argentina's overheating economy.

The economy ministry said it was making "corrections" in the economic policy followed by the government of President Carlos Menem since his July 8 inauguration.

The corrections were required, the ministry said, "to combat disturbances experienced in the exchange market in recent weeks."

The ministry said the official value of the national currency, the austral, will be set at 1,000 to

one U.S. dollar, compared to the 650 to 1 official rate in effect since July 10.

The official exchange market will be used for sale and purchase of dollars in export-import and financial operations, the ministry said.

At the same time, it said, a "free" exchange market for all other dollar transactions on which the value of the austral would float will be allowed to operate.

An illegal but widely tolerated black market previously had operated in Argentina, and the widening gap between the official and black market values of the dollar had provoked concern in recent weeks.

On Thursday, the dollar sold for 1,020 australs on the black market compared to the official value of 655.

The ministry earlier Sunday night ordered all banks and currency exchange houses to remain closed Monday to ease implementation of the economic adjustments.

The ministry also announced that the price of regular gasoline will increase by 61 per cent to the equivalent of \$1.44 per gallon, super gasoline by 59 per cent to \$1.72 per gallon and diesel fuel by 62 per cent to 91 cents per gallon.

Economy Minister Nestor Rapenelli said new rates for public utilities, such as telephones, natural gas and electricity, would be announced later. Current public service rates were set last July 9, when they were increased by 200 per cent, and were to remain in effect, unchanged, through 1990.

A communique announced a 30,000 austral (\$30) flat pay increase for public employees and a 24,000 austral (\$24) raise for the private sector.

The ministry also said it will delay the payment of state-issued internal bonds by two years, but will continue to pay interest. The internal debt is estimated to total about \$7 billion with about \$650

million scheduled to mature by March 1.

The communique said the treasury will stop providing aid in financing deficits of state companies and provincial governments.

The government has moved cautiously on the issue of modifying current economic policy. A devaluation was considered likely to fuel price hikes, wage demands and inflation. Also, higher utility bills and transport fares could erode public support for the five-month-old government.

Menem insisted Friday that his programme to privatisations and deregulation would be maintained and he rejected rumours he would shuffle his cabinet. He urged Argentines to remain "calm... and have hope and faith."

The widening gap between the official and black market values of the austral had led analysts to say it reflected concern that inflation was heating up and Menem's austerity programme was drifting.

The cost of living, which soared to nearly 200 per cent in July, had dropped by 5.6 per cent in October, but rose by 6.5 per cent in November. Independent economists predicted the December rate could be in double digits.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Power seminar opens in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 150 Jordanian and international experts will Tuesday discuss ways to encourage more private investment in Jordan's energy production. The Jordan Electricity Authority and USAID are sponsoring a two-day seminar to evaluate Jordan's energy needs, the cost of private power projects and when and how to tap private sector resources to ease the strain on the government budget. Participants, who come from Jordan private and public sectors, will also discuss incentives that encourage investment and ensure consumer protection. The review follows recent positive discoveries in the energy field. Jordanian oil shale can prove a valuable new source of energy and the discovery of additional natural gas reserves all indicate Jordan has the resources to meet growing energy demand. National Resources Authority studies indicate private energy production would be commercially feasible if oil prices rise as expected over the next ten years.

Financial conference reviews papers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in the first conference on the role of accountancy and financial and banking sciences in economic development in Jordan Monday discussed six working papers presented by professors from Illinois University, Um Durman University, the University of Jordan, the Royal Scientific Society, the Social Security Corporation and Yarmouk University. The first working paper, presented by Ahmad Bakawi of Illinois University, dealt with the linguistic and social relations with accountancy while the second, presented by Issam Mutawalli of Sudan's University of Um Durman dealt with zakat (alms) accounting and its role in economic development. The second paper tackled the concept of economic development in capitalistic, socialist and Islamic thinking. He pointed out that zakat is a source of finance in the Islamic state. The third paper, which was presented by Yousef Saadeh from the University of Jordan dealt with the determinants to the role of accountancy in serving the development in Jordan. The three other papers touched upon the role of banks and financial institutions in development and the impact of brokers on economic progress in Jordan.

Iraq to develop new gas field

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has said it would develop a new northern gas field capable of producing 200 million cubic feet of gas daily. Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi told the Iraqi News Agency that work on the Anfal gas field near the oil city of Kirkuk would start next May and was expected to be completed in the second quarter of 1991. The field is 33 kilometres long and four kilometres wide and is estimated to contain 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas, the minister said. The gas will be used for industrial projects. Plans include eight wells, a field station for assembling, heating and depressing the gas, a 20-kilometre network of pipes and a 30-kilometre distribution pipeline.

IFAD approves \$360m aid package

ROME (R) — The U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has approved a package of aid projects to Guatemala, North Yemen and several African countries worth a total of more than \$360 million. The Rome-based fund said the project would help the poorest farmers in Guatemala and in Angola, Cameroun, Ghana, Mauritania, Somalia, Tanzania, the Yemen Arab Republic, and Zambabwe.

Kuwait to build paper plant in Belgium

KUWAIT (R) — The state-owned Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) is to build a paper plant in Belgium at a cost of \$391 million, the official news agency KUNA has said. It quoted a KIO statement in Madrid as saying the plant, scheduled to start production in 1992, would have an annual capacity of 192,000 tonnes of paper. KIO said the investment would be made by the Spanish-Belgian paper company Celulosa De La Ardenas, which is owned by Madrid-based KIO subsidiary Torres Papel Co.

Unionists claim high Moroccan unemployment

RABAT (R) — Half the people in Morocco's labour force of seven million do not have jobs and the unemployed include 25,000 people with higher education, two trade union leaders have said. No official figures for total unemployment are available. According to Bank Al Maghrib, the central bank, half a million people in urban areas were out of work last year. Noubir Amawi, of the Confederation Democratique Du Travail (CDT), and Abdal Razak Afilal, of the Union Generale Des Travailleurs Marocains (UGTM), said government privatisation policies threatened to increase the jobless rate even further. They told a joint news conference that unemployment was particularly high among the young in a country where three-quarters of the people were aged under 35. Afilal said 3.5 million people in a work force of seven million were unemployed and there was chronic underemployment. The two leaders also protected at what they said was the shrinking purchasing power of wages, violations of trade union rights and freedom of expression and the government's refusal to talk to labour groups.

Jordanians examine shipping method

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian private sector exporters of fruit and vegetables have been examining the possibility of using a revolutionary new transportation vehicle for shipping their produce to Europe.

Representatives of Welz International, an Austrian-based freight forwarding company, have met with Jordanian exporters at the invitation of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) to introduce the company's "portable controlled atmosphere container."

The container is a patented system which stops perishables from aging by continuously substituting nitrogen for oxygen and maintaining optimum humidity on the trip to distant markets.

Jordanian fruits and vegetables can compete in the European markets — and transportation is the key to bringing quality goods to the stores before competitors. Air transport is quick but costly, and overland transport by refrigerated truck will not deliver all crops sufficiently fresh after the 7-15 day journey.

But contrast, the "controlled atmosphere container" holds such perishables as mangoes for 28 days and figs for 21 days at perfect ripeness while en route by truck, rail, or ship, according to Welz, which documents the assertion with before-shipping and after-shipping photographs.

Using these computerized containers, South American and South African clients are exporting fruits and fresh flowers to such distant markets as Paris and New York City at a cost below air freight.

In conjunction with Jordanian exporters and AMO, Welz is sponsoring two trial shipments early next year. The exporters will supply vegetables, sorted and packed for the quality-conscious European market; the Agricultural Marketing Development Project, a USAID-funded AMO activity to promote private sector exports, will provide technical assistance; and Welz will provide the trailers.

The results will be discussed at a major transportation seminar AMO will hold in April.

Libya keeps 'pipes' open with U.S. oil companies

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Libya intends to maintain a dialogue with the five American oil companies that have interests in the North African country, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The Nicosia-based weekly newsletter quoted Libya's oil minister, Fawzi Shakhshuk, as saying his country was conducting the dialogue while awaiting the time when U.S. restrictions on dealing with the country will be lifted.

Shakhshuk said that Libya's position was that a partner "should be a full partner who undertakes his responsibilities and has mutual interests. Partnership cannot be from one side only."

If the American companies receive U.S. government approval to operate in Libya as a full partner having full rights and

undertaking all obligations, including the training of Libyans, sending high-level experts, and providing oilfield spare parts, if they can achieve that, they are welcome to come back," he added. "If not, we will continue the talks."

Shakhshuk told the newsletter that "there is a dialogue. Each side understands the position of the other and is working to reduce the obstacles in an appropriate manner."

Official negotiations between Libya's National Oil Corp. and Marathon, Occidental, Conoco, Amerada-Hess and W.R. Grace have been suspended since last July.

But the newsletter said it was understood that informal talks will continue to be held between the two sides in various European cities with no formal meetings scheduled.

China calls for more large-scale farming

BEIJING (AP) — China should revive large-scale farming, but will not abandon the family farm system that has brought prosperity to many rural areas, a senior official has said.

The appeal for "comprehensive agricultural production," made by Vice Premier Tian Jiyun comes as the government moves to reassert central control over the economy and address shortfalls in agricultural output.

Tian told a conference on agricultural development that it was vital to improve the nation's agricultural capacity and promote large-scale farming. He discussed 19 major projects launched this year and last to improve irrigation, plant wind-breaking trees and open up virgin land. The projects are being financed by taxing rural enterprises and other non-agricultural users of farmland.

Agriculture Minister He Kang also warned that China's population is increasing every year while arable land is shrinking, and said the introduction of mechanised farming and modern farming techniques will be top priorities in the next few years.

Grain production has jumped by a third and rural incomes have tripled in the past decade, as China's reformist leaders dismantled the communes and returned to a family farming system in which farmers are allowed to sell part of their crop on free markets.

But after reaching a record grain harvest of 407 million tonnes in 1984, output has stagnated because land has been converted for industrial uses and the plots worked by individual farmers are too small for more efficient mechanised farming.

Ever with relatively good weather this year, the grain harvest is expected to be little more than 400 million tonnes, up from 394 million tonnes last year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, December 11, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	643.0	649.0
Pound Sterling	1015.3	1025.5
Deutschmark	363.6	367.2
Swiss franc	402.7	406.7
French franc	106.4	107.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	444.4	448.8
Dutch guilder	322.3	325.5
Swedish crown	101.2	102.3
Italian lira (for 100)	49.4	49.9
Belgian franc (for 10)	173.2	174.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
One Sterling	1.5832/42	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1610/20	Canadian dollar
	1.7688/95	Deutschmarks
	1.9960/70	Dutch guilders
	1.5960/70	Swiss francs
	37.15/18	Belgian francs
	6.0440/90	French francs
	1305/1306	Italian lire
	144.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.3450/500	Swedish crowns
	6.7725/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.8600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	413.75/414.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed lower in featureless trading as pre-Christmas lethargy set in. The All Ordinaries index fell 10.2 points to 1,615.8.

TOKYO — Prices fluctuated for most of the day but closed firm in mixed, moderate trading. The Nikkei index rose 28.61 to 37,752.67.

HONG KONG — Prices of blue chips ended slightly firmer on late bargain-hunting but trading volume remained thin in the absence of new incentives. The Hang Seng index rose 9.22 to 2,763.33.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed. Selected and speculative buying by institutions and individuals alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 3.58 to close at a post-crash high of 1,448.54.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange was closed for trading to enable brokers to complete business done in the two weeks ended Friday last. Trading resumes Tuesday.

FRANKFURT — West German shares closed mixed in quiet trade with investors continuing to take profits after recent gains. The DAX index rose 2.93 points to finish at 1,633.72.

ZURICH — Light buying helped Swiss shares close steady after a slow and lethargic session, dealers said.

PARIS — French share prices closed weaker on profit-taking after recent strong gains. The CAC index finished 8.20 points down at 1,971.09.

LONDON — Share prices eased on the back of a further decline on Wall Street. The market had rallied earlier following a generally positive set of economic data. A feeling the market had been overbought was prompting some profit-taking. By 1615 GMT the FTSE was down 11 points at 2,352.5.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks drifted lower on the opening in line with mild weakness in the bond market. By 1615 GMT the DOW was almost six points down at 2,725.26.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Have you got a remote control that weighs 100 pounds? My husband needs the exercise."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answers: VERIP, SOINY, NEPPIS, ENCHIL

Yesterday's Jumble: THINK POWER JURST SURVIV Answer: "Does your wife pick your clothes?" — "JUST THE POCKETS"

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Egypt wary of powerful World Cup group

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The luck of the draw — all bad — had Egypt's soccer establishment worried Sunday that the country's first World Cup appearance in 56 years will be less than memorable.

"If it hadn't been a lottery, I would have said they were out to get us," said Hussein Madkour, vice president of the Egyptian Soccer Union.

Saturday's first-round draw in Rome, Italy, for the 1990 World Cup placed Egypt in group F, playing in Cagliari and Palermo. More important, its opponents are surprising Ireland and two of Europe's traditionally good teams, England and the current European champion, Netherlands.

Against the specter of such competition, Egyptian soccer officials and players are reduced to expressions of good intent and high hopes.

"Our luck was that we were chosen with very strong international teams," coach Mahmoud Al Gohary, in Rome for the draw, told the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram. "We will do our very best to be in a good position to face them."

Al-Ahram's headline was: "We were unlucky."

"Without a doubt, Egypt's group competitors are very powerful, but we hope to get good results," said Hossam Hassan, whose early goal against Algeria in their African zone qualifying final gave Egypt a 1-0 victory and its first World Cup berth since 1934.

Hassan called Egypt's first-round group "a hard test for Egyptian soccer."

But he predicted the team will

be well-prepared for the World Cup and won't embarrass Egypt.

"I wouldn't rule out... surprises," the 23-year-old forward told the Associated Press.

Coach Al Gohary said the team will have a final warmup match before next year's June-July championships against powerful Denmark, a 1986 World Cup competitor which just missed 1990's final 24.

The soccer union's Madkour called the Egyptian group the most powerful of the six in the competition.

"The draw put us between the jaws of two of the most powerful teams in the world," he said, meaning England and Holland.

"If it hadn't been a lottery, I would have said they were out to get us. But the soccer ball is

round and has its surprises."

Ahmad Shohair, 29, Egypt's goalkeeper and a club stalwart, also predicted he and his mates will work hard to be ready.

"This championship is a chance for all of us players to raise Egypt's reputation on the international soccer field," Shohair said. "Let's wait for the matches to show the results."

If Egypt should pass into the second round, it would be a better performance than Egypt's only other appearance, in the second World Cup in 1934.

A medium-level soccer power in the 1920s, Egypt lost 4-2 to Hungary in 1934's first round. For Hungary, which in those days fielded one of the great soccer teams, the victory avenged a 3-2 loss to Egypt in the Olympic games in Paris 10 years earlier.

1990: Tournament of champions

ROME (AP) — Italy is the early favorite for the 1990 World Cup, but to win, it must outlast another three-time champion and all four other previous winners of soccer's most prestigious tournament.

Only six countries have ever won the coveted trophy, and they're all contending to win it again in the tournament starting next June 8.

British oddsmakers have made triple winners Italy and Brazil the early favorites for 1990. They also gave defending champion Argentina and West Germany a good chance to win their third titles and England an outside shot at its second.

Two-time champion Uruguay is the only former winner not seeded in Italy among the top favorites.

But while the 1990 World Cup

is a tournament of champions, none of the former winners will clash in the first round. Italy, Brazil, Argentina, West Germany and England have all been seeded at the head of one of the six groups.

Uruguay was drawn Saturday as a lower category team playing in the only first-round group not headed by a former World Cup holder, Belgium.

The British bookmaker Coral's made Italy a 5-2 favorite in the month-long tournament, closely followed by Brazil at 4-1. The Netherlands was listed next at 5-1 followed by West Germany at 8-1, Argentina at 9-1 and England at 12-1.

Italy, the winner in 1930, 1934, heads group A, which includes longshots Austria and Czechoslovakia and the United States, the darkest of the 24-team tournament's dark horses. That draw

could also be an omen for the Italians who beat the same three teams en route to the 1934 championship, the only other World Cup it hosted.

"Let's be honest," Italian coach Azeglio Vicini said after Saturday's draw. "It went very well for us."

Brazil plays its first-round group C matches against Scotland, Costa Rica and Sweden, the toughest opponent and the team the South Americans defeated in Sweden in 1958 to win their first title. Brazil, which also won in 1962 and 1970, is the only team to have qualified for all 14 World Cup finals.

Argentina, a winner in 1978 and 1986, begins its title defence with the June 8 opener in Milan against Cameroon, which is making only its second appearance in the World Cup finals. It also faces tough opposition from the Soviet

Union and Romania.

Argentine captain Diego Armando Maradona, lamenting the draw, said group B "seems to be a group of iron."

West Germany won the title in 1954 and 1974 and is trying to avoid being the runnerup for the third consecutive time. It lost the 1982 final to Italy and the 1986 final to Argentina.

Coach Franz Beckenbauer sees Yugoslavia as the most serious obstacle in group D, which also includes Colombia and the United Arab Emirates, a World Cup newcomer.

Uruguay, a winner in 1930 and 1950, has one of the rockiest roads to another cup triumph. It must overcome Belgium, the seeded team in group E, South Korea and Spain, which cried foul when it was denied a seed in favour of England.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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STAY AWAY FROM DANGER

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K J
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A J 10 8 3
♣ 6 4

EAST
♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ J 10 9 5

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ K 9 4
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:
North: East: South: West:
1 ♣: Pass: 3 NT: Pass:
Pass: Pass: Pass: Pass:

"Opening lead: Queen of ♣"
"In a recent column," writes a reader, "you mentioned an avoidance play. I didn't quite grasp the import. Could you enlighten me?"
With pleasure. On a great many hands, one of the defenders poses a threat to the contract; the other does not. The fate of the contract then hinges on avoiding letting the dangerous hand gain the lead.
Suppose you reach three no

trump on this hand. While the South hand is, in theory, a point shy for that response, the high honor in partner's suit and the solid interme-

diate compensate for the shortfall. West leads the queen of hearts and, being the good technician that you are, you refuse to win. Now West shifts in a club. You need diamond tricks to make your contract, and you can take the finesse either way. What are you going to do?

First, decide which hand is a menace to your contract. Here, it is East—if West gains the lead, he can do you no harm because your king of hearts stops the suit and is safe from attack; if East gains the lead, however, a heart through your king could prove ruinous.

Therefore, you must play the diamonds in such a way as to avoid having East on lead. Once you've crossed that Rubicon, the rest is easy. Enter dummy with the king of spades and run the eight of diamonds. You don't mind if that loses; you have nine tricks for sure. But if the cards lie as in the diagram, you will score five diamond tricks and at least 10 tricks in all.

Evert wins 'farewell tour'

ATLANTA (AP) — Chris Evert turned in a come-from-behind victory Sunday night over her good friend and longtime rival Martina Navratilova in the final exhibition match of what is billed as her "farewell tour."

But afterward she indicated there might be plenty of good volleys yet to come.

Evert started slow but came back to defeat Navratilova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Serving and attacking aggressively, Evert forced Navratilova into countless errors in the second and third sets to claim the victory in two hours and five minutes before 12,000 fans in the Omni.

The contest brought to an end the six-city exhibition tour begun in late September after Evert retired from the pro circuit. But Evert said the 16-year, 80-match rivalry might not be over yet.

"I never wanted to quit cold turkey," she said. "As long as Martina is open to touring, we may do this for another year."

Evert, who will turn 35 later this month, plans to remain active in tennis through exhibition and charity matches. She also is to be a commentator for U.S. television network NBC during the 1990 French Open and Wimbledon tournaments.

Naali wins Honolulu marathon

HONOLULU (AP) — Simon Robert Naali, a police officer from Tanzania, overcame strong winds Sunday in winning the Honolulu marathon, just missing the course record.

Naali, 26, finished the 26-mile, 385-yard race in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 47 seconds, four seconds off of the course record of 2:11:43 set in 1986 by Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya. Hussein, a three-time winner, finished second Sunday in 2:14:02.

"It was a tough race from the beginning because it was very windy," Naali said through an interpreter.

Naali took the lead from the outset and said he stayed in front because he felt he had the strength.

Naali and Hussein ran together for 15 miles (14 kilometers), then Naali began pulling away.

"He pulled away from me and I was struggling with the wind," Hussein said. "I thought he would have to pull back."

Tanzanians took four of the top five places.

Gidamis Shahanga was third in 2:14:05, followed by countrymen

Omni.

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"He pulled away from me and I was struggling with the wind," Hussein said. "I thought he would have to pull back."

Tanzanians took four of the top five places.

Gidamis Shahanga was third in 2:14:05, followed by countrymen

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Real, Barcelona beat opposition in 9-goal spree

MADRID (R) — Soccer giants Real Madrid and Barcelona blitzed lowly opponents with nine goals in the Spanish league Sunday.

Champions and league leaders Real trounced Valladolid 4-0 for their seventh consecutive home win. Barcelona also celebrated being at home by demolishing humble Cadiz 5-0.

Real lead with 23 points while Barcelona, beaten by Italy's AC Milan in the European Super Cup last week, are second on goal difference in a pack of five teams on 19 points.

West German midfielder Bernd Schuster was central to Real's victory, his first goal adding to their tally of 36 from eight home games this season. He put Real ahead in the 18th minute, gently pushing home a pass from Mexican Hugo San-

chez.

Midfielder Michel Gonzalez was surprised when what he meant as a cross to Sanchez went right into the net in the 28th. Sanchez scored the third with a low shot on a pass from Emilio Butragueno in the 42nd to take his tally as the league's top scorer to 15.

Martin Vazquez made it four in the fifth minute.

Striker Julio Salinas set up three of Barcelona goals before scoring the fifth five minutes from time.

Jose Bakero began the rout in the fifth minute. Salinas set up the second for Aitor Beguiristain 11 minutes later, and Dutchman Ronald Koeman scored the third on a penalty when Salinas was brought down inside the penalty area.

Bakero headed home the fourth on a pass from Salinas in the 66th minute, and Salinas himself hit the mark with a rocket shot near the end.

Atletico Madrid remained in the pack of the second-placed with a hard-fought 3-2 victory in Tenerife. After drawing 2-2 at halftime, they had to wait until the 63rd minute for winger Manolo Sanchez to ram home the winner on a corner from Portuguese Paulo Futre.

Valencia stayed alongside them, together with Oviedo and Osasuna, after drawing 2-2 at Madrid's newly-promoted Rayo Vallecano.

The referee showed three yellow cards to each side and a red card to Rayo's Bulgarian striker Luboslav Penev for elbowing Juan Gambin in the 10th minute.

Soviets take lead in world chess tourney

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (AP) — European junior champion Boris Gelfand of the Soviet Union took the lead in the standings of the qualifying tournament for the world cup chess, scoring his fifth straight victory in the fifth round Sunday.

Gelfand defeated Michael Adams of Britain to lead with five points.

Adams has four points along with Daniel King of Britain, Josef Klingner of Austria, and seven other Soviet players.

The seven Soviet players also with four points were Mikhail Gurevich, who is the world's seventh-ranked player; Sergey Makarichev, Vitaly Treshkovsky, Oleg Romanishin, Vladimir Akopian, Miodras Torodkevich and

Viktor Gavrikov.

Gavrikov drew with King. Klingner drew with Akopian. Romanishin defeated Aleks Wojciech of Poland. Torodkevich defeated Alfredo Romero of Spain. Atilla Groszpet of Hungary defeated Gurevich. Makarichev defeated Vladimir Tukmakov of the Soviet Union, and Treshkovsky drew with Yuri Razuvaev of the Soviet Union.

Players are awarded one point for a victory and half a point for a draw.

Monday was a day of rest. A total of 183 players are vying to finish to nine-round tournament in the top eight positions and qualify for the second world cup to be played in 1991 and 1992.

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Aquino seeks to boost her hand

MANILA — President Corason Aquino said Monday she was considering revamping her cabinet, but probably would not replace members this year despite demands by military mutineers and others for sweeping changes in her administration.

In other developments, opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile repeated calls for Aquino to step down, saying she cannot prove she was duly elected president.

Military officials also admitted they cannot account for more than half of the estimated 3,000 soldiers who launched a coup attempt Dec. 1. Rebels surrendered their last stronghold, in Cebu city, Saturday.

Two powerful senate panels Monday recommended the granting of broad emergency powers to Aquino to help her thwart further coup attempts and rebuild the country's shattered economy.

Warning that the threat of a new revolt was still alive, the committees on defence and constitutional amendments said more than 2,000 rebel soldiers who nearly toppled Aquino in the six-day mutiny were still at large along with their leaders.

The committees linked "certain economic and political groupings" to the coup which was crushed last week but did not identify them.

Aquino last weekend implicitly linked estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel and opposition leaders Enrile and Eduardo Cojuangco to the mutiny.

In a joint report the committees urged the senate to approve a law authorising Aquino to seize firearms from soldiers, police and civilians, take over public utilities and related businesses, fix prices and regulate power distribution.

The law would also give the president power to intervene in labour strikes and order compulsory settlements.

One provision in the bill, copies of which were released to reporters, would empower Aquino to promulgate her own laws.

In a news conference Monday, Aquino was asked whether she was considering changing cabinet members after the coup attempt, the bloodiest and strongest of six armed threats to her administration.

"I am constantly observing their performance and capabilities and I believe that by the end of the year we will already know who we will probably change in order that we have a more efficient delivery of services to our people," she said.

Mutineers had demanded that Aquino and her government resign in favour of a civilian-military junta. Many political commentators also have urged changes in the cabinet because of inefficiency in government.

As a sign of concern, share prices tumbled in nervous trading on the Manila stock exchange Monday, the first day of trading since the coup attempt was launched.

Oscar Florendo, chief of the military's civil relations service, said 113 people were killed and 581 others were injured in the coup attempt.

Florendo said 1,485 rebel troops, including 128 officers, have surrendered. The military estimates about 3,000 soldiers joined the coup attempt, and the whereabouts of many rebels remained unclear.

Bases talks postponed

Aquino also said Monday talks scheduled this month between Manila and Washington on the future of U.S. military bases had been postponed until next year because of the coup attempt.



Corason Aquino

She said the talks might be held in January or February.

"I think that there will really be no exploratory talks this month because there are still many things that our government has to attend to," she told reporters.

"Perhaps we can start the exploratory talks if out in January then in February."

Aquino, who was asked by journalists, denied having compromised her government's bargaining position in the talks when she accepted U.S. military to help put down the mutiny.

At her request, U.S. F-4 fighters flew "combat air patrol" over Manila Dec. 1, shortly after

planes flown by rebel soldiers bombed Aquino's Malacanang presidential palace and loyal troop positions.

The American planes from nearby Clark air base did not engage in combat, but marked a turning point in the battle by clearing the air of rebel aircraft and allowing Philippine pilots to destroy enemy-held planes at Sangley naval station south of the capital.

The local media and opposition politicians criticised Aquino's move, saying she had jeopardised Philippine sovereignty and weakened Manila's bargaining power over the future of the American bases.

'Gorbachev offered to quit'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev offered to resign as party chief during a fiery closed-door debate with conservatives complaining about his overtures to the West, but Communist leaders quickly affirmed their support, a participant said Sunday.

During the closed meeting of the Central Committee Saturday, Gorbachev also warned Communists they must quickly solve Soviet domestic problems or face the same fate of party rulers in Eastern Europe, the official Soviet news agency TASS said Sunday.

Gorbachev offered to resign after Alexander Melnikov, party chief of Siberian city Kemerovo, "really let himself get carried away and said something like this: 'Is it proper to go bowing to the capitalists? To go asking a blessing from the Pope?'" according to a conservative Central Committee member, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source said Gorbachev "was touched on the raw" by the criticism of his moves to make peace with the West, and offered to resign if the full Central Committee agreed with Melnikov.

Gorbachev was immediately supported by several speakers, and Melnikov wound up apologising, the source said.

The policy-making Central Committee has the power to remove Gorbachev as head of the party but not from his presidency.

It was not the first time Gorbachev, who became Communist

Party chief in March 1985, was said to have offered his resignation.

Soviet sources have reported that on at least two earlier occasions Gorbachev said he would resign if he no longer had the confidence of the Central Committee.

But the Saturday meeting took place against a backdrop of a deteriorating economy, continued nationalist unrest and challenges to the Communists' constitutionally-enshrined leading role in Soviet society as communism crumbles in Eastern Europe.

Recently conservatives who are unhappy with Gorbachev's policies have become more vocal.

In Leningrad last month a rally sponsored by the local Communist Party heard calls for the Soviet politburo to admit responsibility for the country's troubles.

Gorbachev, in his speech to the session which was published Sunday in the Communist daily Pravda, said the Soviet constitution was open to revision but he did not favour stripping the party of its leading role now.

In Moscow, about 5,000 people marched Sunday in frigid temperatures in support of reformist parliamentarians. They were left alone by police.

But a smaller group of several hundred was forcibly hustled off Pushkin Square after speakers ripped up photographs of Gorbachev and Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin. Demonstrators chanted, "Freedom, freedom," as the white-helmeted riot police



Mikhail Gorbachev

punched them.

Police also shoved hundreds of onlookers down icy stairs toward a subway station kicked their feet out from under them. TASS said later 20 people were held by police.

Baltic polls

Radical groups in Estonia and Latvia demanding a return to their Baltic republics' pre-war independence looked set for substantial gains from last weekend's local elections.

Preliminary results Monday in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, showed a 12-member radical alliance had picked up 18 of the 80 city council seats after preference votes were counted and was likely to win at least 40 when the final tally was calculated.

Among the 18 was a member of the environmentalist Greens party.

A complex preferential voting system means the full outcome will not be known for several days.

40 killed in fresh Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO (R) — Left-wing Sinhalese rebels killed about 40 people and set fire to buses and government offices in a sudden outbreak of violence across Sri Lanka, military sources said Monday.

The attacks occurred Sunday in southern, western and central areas.

The sources said 48 state-owned buses, two railway engines, 20 other government vehicles and eight bulldozers were burned.

Four small railway stations, a bus depot, two tile and phosphate factories and a post office were among buildings damaged.

The worst incident was at a bus depot in southern Ambalantota where 27 buses were set ablaze. Among the victims, most of whom were killed in separate attacks, were families of security personnel and relatives of politicians.

The left-wing People's Liberation Front (JVP), fighting to overthrow the government, was blamed for the attacks.

In other violence, two Buddhist monks were killed and dumped on the road in central Kandy district and the bodies of four other people were set afire in the same area.

Kandy residents blamed pro-government vigilantes, hunting JVP rebels, for the attacks.

Military sources said JVP attacks had eased after front leader Rohana Wijeweera and other top rebels were killed last month.

"Yesterday's attacks came at a time when we want to thin out troops in the rebel's southern strongholds," an officer said.

He said it was possible that the attacks were a ploy to prevent Sri

Lankan reinforcements being sent to the north and east where Indian troops are withdrawing.

"The JVP was once provided arms and other aid by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the support would probably still exist," he said.

The EPRLF rules the Tamil-dominated northeast region and has been accused, with India's help, of forming an illegal militia that is now attacking police stations and army camps.

Police said the illegal Tamil national army fired heavy mortars at the Sri Lankan camp at Manner in the northwest sector Sunday. Two navy men and a soldier were injured.

Indian troops are gradually vacating from the island's northern and eastern areas after arriving in July 1987 to help end a Tamil separatist rebellion.

China protests Norwegian presence at Nobel ceremony

BEIJING (AP) — China Monday protested the official Norwegian presence at the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

An unidentified official of the Foreign Ministry lodged the "solemn representation" in a meeting with Norway's Ambassador to China Jan Tore Holvik, the official Xinhua news agency said.



The Dalai Lama

The official said the presence of Norwegian leaders at the award ceremonies in Oslo Sunday "constituted an open support to the Dalai clique's activities aimed at splitting China and a gross interference in China's internal affairs."

King Olav V and government leaders attended the ceremony for the 54-year-old Buddhist monk, who was honoured for his advocacy of non-violence in seeking an end to Chinese rule in Tibet.

The official said Norway had "completely gone against its declared position of recognising Tibet as part of Chinese territory."

"This will greatly impair Sino-Norwegian relations which have already been affected," the official was quoted as saying.

He said Norway was entirely at fault in the dispute and "bore an unshirkable responsibility."

China says Tibet has been an inalienable part of the nation for 700 years and accuses followers of the Dalai Lama of instigating pro-independence violence in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa in the past two years.

Also on Monday, Xinhua said granting the prize to the Dalai Lama "cynically mocks" the prestigious award.

Xinhua, in an English-language dispatch from Stockholm, reported that the Dalai Lama had received the prize in Oslo despite "strong protest from the Chinese government and condemnation from persons of deep insight the world over."

It said the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee had twice given the award to a "so-called dissident" in socialist countries, apparent references to Soviet Andrei Sakharov in 1975 and Poland's Lech Walesa in 1983.

The Dalai Lama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize Sunday "on behalf of the oppressed everywhere," saying he was reconsidering his proposals for ending the 40-year struggle with China.

"I accept the prize with profound gratitude on behalf of the oppressed everywhere and for all those who struggle for freedom and work for world peace," said the Dalai Lama.

Wearing the scarlet robes of a Buddhist monk, the Dalai Lama

struggle must remain non-violent said China's rejection of his 1987 plan, which he said drew criticism from his own supporters as too conciliatory, was forcing him to rethink his approach.

However, he insisted: "Our and free of hatred."

The Dalai Lama, who fled to exile in India after a failed uprising in 1959, has offered to relinquish claims to full independence in return for Tibetan autonomy over domestic affairs. China would retain control over military and diplomatic affairs, under his plan.

Beijing has rejected his formula.

"We are thus obliged to reconsider our position," said the Dalai Lama in his prepared acceptance speech.

In delivering the address, however, he softened the implied threat. Noting China's refusal to respond positively, he said: "If this continues, we will be compelled to reconsider our position."

He called for discussions based "on the principle of equality, respect, trust and mutual benefit."

He cited a treaty from the year 823 A.D. which said, "Tibetans will live happily in the great land of Tibet, and the Chinese will live happily in the great land of China."

He later declined to elaborate on the warning, saying the situation in Tibet was too delicate for him to reveal new strategies.

At a news conference, he said the ruling Chinese have "become even more repressive" in Tibet since the October announcement of his Nobel prize.

"But in the long term, it will be positive," he said.

Woman gives away thousands in cash

CHICAGO (AP) — It's not against the law to give away money in a bar — but it does provoke a lot of suspicion, Judy Kelly has found out.

The Boston resident walked into the bar of a motel near Midway airport and started passing out \$100, \$50 and \$20 bills to patrons.

She said she was driving across the country competing against 40 or 50 other people in a national competition that required her to give money away, according to a truck driver at the bar who asked to remain anonymous.

But the generosity seemed suspicious to tavern owners, who called police. Officers questioned the woman and took her to a local mental health centre for an evaluation but did not arrest her, police said.

"You might call her eccentric," said Tom Tansarik, one of the officers who questioned the woman.

Witnesses said she pulled the cash from a brown paper bag; they said she started with \$100 bills and then apologised when she ran out and went to smaller denominations.

"The bills just have pictures of dead men," she said, according to the Chicago Sun-Times' Sunday edition. The newspaper said she passed out about \$5,000, by one estimate.

The bar filled with word spread, and flight attendants from the nearby airport rushed back to tell co-workers.

All tried politely to make the acquaintance of Kelly, who appeared to be in her mid-50s.

"They were all coming up and playing stupid like they didn't know what was going on," said Jose Gallegos, 21, an employee of a neighbouring rental car agency who had to give Kelly a kiss in return for his \$100.

Kelly gave \$100 to the truck driver and another \$50 to his dog. Police arrived when Kelly was down to \$10 bills.

They escorted her into a back room and asked why she was passing out money.

"Just to do it," she replied.

At the local police station, officer Burleigh Ginkel said Sunday that police did not arrest the woman. "It's not against the law to give money away," he said.

However, another officer at the station, who would not give his name, said police took Kelly to a mental health centre.

Police find apparent 'mafia cemetery' for gang victims

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Italian police have uncovered an apparent "mafia cemetery" for victims of gangland warfare in the Sicilian capital.

A tipoff from a mafia informer has led police on a grisly trail for secret death-chambers.

Doctors said Sunday that police had dug up human bones under a motorway flyover on the outskirts of Palermo.

They said the bones had been buried "a number of years ago" and a search was going ahead for more human remains.

And investigators were seeking other secret burial sites indicated by 37-year-old informer Francesco Marino Mannoia, whose 250 pages of testimony were made available to police and Palermo magistrates last week.

In his statement, Mannoia, the

first informer from the ruthless and powerful Corleonesi clan, said the mafia had built "death chambers" along the banks of a Palermo river which has become an open sewer.

Victims, including strangled rival clan members, were put in acid baths in the chambers and then dumped in the river, he said.

Police say that as a result of arrests last week based on Mannoia's evidence they had seized a large number of documents, including evidence of a protection racket in Palermo.

A spokesman said during one raid in the southeast of the city, a black-bound exercise book had been found containing the names of about 50 local businessmen and professional people.

Alongside each name was a figure in lire which police believe

represents the sum of money they were expected to pay for "protection."

Among other documents was a list of payments paid to lawyers who have defended mafia detainees. Police say much of the documentation confirms what was already known about the mafia clans, that they guarantee their members legal defence as well as taking care of their families while they are in prison.

Mannoia, sentenced in 1987 to a long jail sentence, said the Corleonesi were paying his wife a million lire (\$766) a month.

Last week, investigators said the information given by Mannoia, who worked for the mob as a drug refining chemist, could be more important than testimony by Tommaso Buscetta, the first senior mafia figure to "sing."

Salvador rebels offer immediate ceasefire

SAN JOSE (R) — El Salvador's leftist guerrillas offered an immediate ceasefire Sunday in the war which has cost more than 2,000 lives in the past month, but demanded that military chiefs be sacked and recent anti-terrorist legislation be scrapped.

Information Minister Mauricio Sandoval immediately rejected the guerrilla proposal, but held open the possibility that his government might consider a ceasefire under other terms.

"(Of) the proposal of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front), the government's position is that it is completely out of line, and it rejects it because it does not make sense," Sandoval told reporters.

In a communique circulating at a Central American summit here, the guerrillas' high command also demanded the reorganisation of the government's negotiating

team in peace talks with the rebels, to include opposition political parties.

The guerrillas said the ceasefire should be internationally supervised and that negotiations should take place immediately "leading to a national consensus based on democratisation, demobilisation and respect for the rights of Salvadoreans."

Dismissing the guerrilla offer, Sandoval said the Salvadorean team had not, however, rejected a proposal by host President Oscar Arias to call a Christmas ceasefire. He said it was a useful contribution to discussions at the summit, called following fierce fighting in San Salvador in which the army says some 2,000 combatants have died.

The guerrillas demanded the sacking of army chief Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce and air force commander General Rafael Bue

tillo, saying they were responsible for indiscriminate bombing of civilians in the capital during the offensive.

They also accused the vice minister of defence, Colonel Orlando Zepeda, of signing the order to assassinate six Jesuits priests, including university rector and leading intellectual Ignacio Ellacuria, during the crisis. They said treasury police chief Colonel Heriberto Hernandez had put the order into operation and Captain Alfonso Chavez Garcia had carried it out.

The six priests were shot at close range at their home in suburban San Salvador Nov. 16.

The FMLN demanded the lifting of a state of siege imposed by President Alfredo Cristiani to meet the crisis and the scrapping of a package of emergency anti-terrorist measures which critics say severely restrict civil rights.

COLUMN

Crime does pay

COPENHAGEN (R) — Embarrassed Danish officials are perplexed about an ice fishing law which makes it cheaper for Danes to break the law than abide by it. They want to charge fishermen 500 crowns (\$70) for a permit to cut holes in the ice but the fine for illegally making a hole is only 200 crowns (\$27). "We can't have a situation where it costs more to get a permit than to pay a fine," said Justice Minister Hans Engell. Permits are now free but civil servants, trying to plug a hole in state finances, have proposed the fee.

Burglars break into British Treasury

LONDON (AP) — Burglars ransacked the treasury, a government department in the heart of the British seat of government and supposedly one of the most closely guarded places in Britain, Scotland Yard said Monday. The police headquarters said it was investigating the burglary, reported in Monday's Independent newspaper. A Yard spokesman confirmed the report, saying the break-in took place some time during the weekend of Dec. 2-3 but was not announced by the police. He refused to give other details. The Independent said the building was empty during the weekends but is patrolled by its own security staff. It said burglars broke into offices on three floors of the four-story building. Filing cabinets were forced open and papers scattered, but the report quoted an unidentified treasury spokesman as saying no papers were stolen. The daily said the burglars probably got in through a basement window after climbing over a low stone wall. The treasury, headed by Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, stands on the west side of the British seat of government at Whitehall, between the Horse Guards and Downing Street, official residence of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The area is supposed to be one of the most closely guarded places in Britain because of bombings elsewhere by the underground Irish Republican Army.

'Caught young'

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AP) — Three young boys tried to rob a city attorney with toy pistols that one of the youths pointed at the attorney's face. Michael G. Rainondi, an attorney for the city solicitor's office, told police that he and another assistant city solicitor were walking back to city hall after lunch when they were approached by the boys aged 7, 10 and 13. The 10-year-old said "Gimme a quarter, and when Rainondi refused the youth pointed the toy pistol at his face and pulled the trigger. Rainondi said, "He did it so calmly, so matter-of-factly, the 33-year-old Rainondi said. "To him it was just a funny joke, but I tell you honestly, some of these kids are selling drugs, and it could have been a real gun." The youths were later found in a video game arcade and charged as juveniles.

1 million miles

PEORITA, Illinois (AP) — Tom Stanesa is as comfortable flying cross-country as most people are driving to work. He should be, he has racked up more than one million miles in the air on business trips for Caterpillar Inc. "Flying planes was all I ever wanted to do," he said. He started out to be a pilot, but an accident during navy flight training affected his vision. So he has flown as a passenger, and logged every run.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	02 36 07 45	Cloudy					
ATHENS	05 41 09 48	Cloudy					
BAHIA	13 20 28	Cloudy					
BANGKOK	19 26 32	Clear					
Buenos Aires	23 35 05	Cloudy					
CAIRO	12 24 22	72 Clear					
CHICAGO	03 27 02	35 Cloudy					
COPENHAGEN	02 36 03	37 Cloudy					
FRANKFURT	08 18 02	36 Cloudy					
GENEVA	04 25 01	34 Cloudy					
HONG KONG	17 28 21	70 Clear					
ISTANBUL	01 30 02	36 Cloudy					
LONDON	05 47 18	46 Cloudy					
LOS ANGELES	08 45 14	68 Clear					
MADRID	08 16 02	57 Cloudy					
MEXICO	21 30 06	Cloudy					
MONTREAL	17 01 11	12 Cloudy					
MOSCOW	22 08 19	02 Cloudy					
NEW DELHI	09 48 25	77 Clear					
NEW YORK	05 23 02	35 Cloudy					
PARIS	03 32 04	38 Cloudy					
ROME	01 34 05	Cloudy					
SYDNEY	19 06 28	62 Cloudy					
TEHRAN	05 41 14	57 Clear					
VIENNA	05 23 00	32 Clear					